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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2010

Town council trims tax rise to just two per cent

THE precept raised by Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is to rise by two per cent – which means that a band D property owner will have to pay an extra £1.02 in council tax.

As a result, the band D property owner will be paying £52.13 next year to fund the operation of the town council.

Of course, the town council precept is a small portion of the annual council tax bill.

The Vale Council has yet to set its final figure for council tax, but a rise of a few percentage points is expected.

The third portion of any council tax is that raised by South Wales Police.

This has also not yet been decided, but once again, in the light of budgetary pressures on the police, another rise is expected.

Vet denies antique gun charges as court case opens

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A Vale of Glamorgan veterinary surgeon who came into possession of a Lewis machine gun nearly 100 years' old, illegally sold it to a collector of World War One and World War Two aircraft, it has been alleged at Cardiff Crown Court.

Mr Maurice Kirk (aged 64) claimed that the gun had been decommissioned and was not capable of being fired.

But prosecutor Richard Twomlow said that a covert police officer with the codename of 'Foxy', telephoned Mr Kirk, said he was interested in the gun, and was informed that it actually worked.

Mr Kirk, of Marlpits, St Donats, has denied illegally and unlawfully possessing the gun, and selling or transferring it.

Mr Kirk, who is known worldwide as the 'Flying Vet', is not represented by counsel and is defending himself.

Mr Twomlow said the gun was a combination of the original component and other components. Under the 1968 Firearms Act, it was prohibited.

He pointed out that Mr Kirk was a qualified pilot and had a website.

The gun was designed so that two or more bullets could be discharged without repeated pressure on the trigger. Mr Twomlow said that Mr Kirk told Robert Cooper, to whom he sold the gun. that it had been de-activated.

Two firearms experts examined the gun and discovered that it could still be fired, using ammunition of an earlier era, or modern ammunition.

In 2008, he offered for sale on his website, aeroplanes, and the gun and ammunition for £4,000.

A police officer examined the website and saw a number of photographs of Mr Kirk holding the gun. The caption to one read: 'The final solution'.

In addition, said Mr Twomlow, Mr Kirk posted video pictures of himself on You-tube.

Mr Twomlow said Mr Cooper had bought a replica World War One fighter from Mr Kirk in the past.

It was a 'pusher' aeroplane, with the propeller behind the pilot.

In 2008, Mr Kirk sold the gun to Mr Cooper for £2,000, claiming it was de-activated.

Mr Kirk was arrested in June last year and largely said "no comment" to questions; and again repeated that the gun had been decommissioned.

The case is expected to last three weeks.

WHAT WILL BOSCH DO WITH ITS 200 ACRES OF PRIME VALE LAND?

REPORT by GEM STAFF

AS negotiations continue in an attempt to persuade Bosch to keep a manufacturing capability in the Vale, the scale of the commercial nest egg the company retains became clear this week.

The company is taking the work done at its Miskin plant to Hungary, with the loss of 900 jobs, and last week, The GEM asked the question: '*How much land in the Vale does Bosch own?*'

This week, the company issued a statement revealing that the existing plant takes up a mere five per cent of Bosch's landholding.

The statement read:

"*The land that Bosch occupies is owned by Bosch. It is approximately 200 acres of land in total, and the plant facilities occupy only 10 acres of this site.*

"*There are no current plans for the site as the final decision to phase out production of the plant must be agreed by the Bosch board.*"

In last week's GEM article, the former deputy leader of the Vale Council, Tony Williams, said that the now-defunct South Glamorgan County Council had stepped in and granted planning permission on at least 164 acres of that land.

In the company statement, Bosch confirmed that there had been "*strong interest*" in the land from developers.

The statement went on: " *Bosch understands the strong interest in the land as it would be ideal for future development in the region.*

"*Due to its prime location, we have already been contacted by a large number of interested parties.*

"*Bosch will inform all relevant parties in due course once a decision on the future of the site or a potential sale is made*."

The news that the land could be sold for development came as no surprise to Tony Williams.

He said; "Everyone knows about the cash inducements that were paid to Bosch to get them to come, but the land deal has hardly been mentioned.

"However, I can only speculate on the value of this 200-acre nest egg.

"I strongly believe that the value of this land should be a factor in any compensation deal agreed with workers who have lost their jobs."

WORKERS STILL HOPE

Meanwhile, unions and workers at the plant were hoping that a last-minute deal might be reached .

Colin Tucker, who has worked at Bosch for 15 years and is on the plant council – a go-between body for the workers and management, said the employees still hoped their jobs might be saved.

He said: "Talks on the future will continue until the end of February and people feel in a state of limbo until they know what is going to happen.

"Last week, I went to the Assembly and met the First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, and was pleased to see how clued up he was on what was happening.

"A lot of questions have been raised by people as to what can be done at this late stage."

Mr Tucker said there was still the chance that Bosch may want to make use of the skills at the Miskin plant.

He explained: "There are other divisions at Bosch and maybe work could be provided by one of them."

The Vale's AM, Jane Hutt, told The GEM: "Over the past year, I have been meeting with the plant managers and the workforce plant council.

"We offered the management every assistance from the Assembly Government – Proact, support for research and development, urging them to bring new product lines to Wales.

"At every meeting, we were told by management they did not want or need our assistance and that it was '*out of their hands*'.

"Last week, I met with the plant council, with their union representatives and a statement was made by the Deputy First Minister in the Senedd.

"We have not given up and are making further representations to Bosch chiefs in Stuttgart," the Vale AM vowed.

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BOSCH: Just what was the big attraction?

IT is no surprise, but nevertheless galling, that Bosch have decided to relocate to low-wage Hungary – but it would be enlightening to know what incentives to do so have been proferred by the Hungarian government.

Clearly, our own incentives were sufficiently attractive to bring the company to Wales initially, but now these have been dissipated, Bosch is set to exploit new opportunities.

When the possibility of the company coming to Miskin was first debated and Bosch was seeking the support of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, I was a Vale councillor, and clearly remember the company proudly detailing its manufacturing history – with one glaring omission – ie the years between 1939 and 1945.

I wonder why?

Can the company now be more transparent and let us know what offers and inducements have been made by Hungary?

Christopher Short, Barry

'To grit or not to grit?

I WOULD like to echo Mr Arthur's recent comments (The GEM, January 14) regarding council gritting; before the snow, the council seemed to have gritting lorries on the road at the slightest sign of a frost, which is to be commended.

However, when the snow fell, they were conspicuous by their absence throughout the cold spell. I believe a lack of grit caused by their previous efforts was to blame.

Apparently Cowbridge had plenty, so why couldn't some be 'borrowed' by Barry?

On Highlight Park where I live, I saw no discernible efforts of gritting except for Cambourne Close. This road was cleared by council workers by hand and then gritted.

This is probably the most level close on Highlight Park and I would imagine one of the least troubled when snow falls.

Furthermore, our rubbish collections were disrupted, presumably because it was thought too dangerous to risk dustcarts on our estate.

Yet there was a dustcart parked on Lakin Drive opposite Beaumont Close on the very day the rubbish was supposed to be collected. Would Mr Loosemore of the council care to explain this?

Rob Nash, Barry

Sensor these traffic lights!

I WELCOME the traffic lights controlling the new entrance to the Comprehensive School on Aberthin Road - but could I suggest they are fitted with a sensor mechanism, so that they are only activated when cars are trying to leave the car park?

This would prevent regular users of Aberthin Road from having to stop for no reason whatsoever at least once a day.

(Name and address supplied)

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Removal of free transport penalises college students

I WRITE to voice my intense concern about the proposal to cease the free college bus for the students of St David's Catholic college.

As a former student who has St David's college to thank for my acceptance to medical school and success in A levels, I was deeply disappointed to read that there are plans to remove the free transport facilities.

I know from my personal experience, that there are dozens of young people who will miss out on the fantastic opportunities that St David's presents – because they will be unable to afford to travel the hour-long journey to and from college every day. I remember how students would consider giving up college some days because the bus was often late or in a terrible condition, so I am sure that removing the free transport altogether will take away their motivation to go to college at all.

St David's is a unique experience for any sixth former in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The community aspect encouraged by the background of Christian faith is what makes it special, and also many of the courses available and overall learning experience are incomparable to any other sixth forms in Barry and the surrounding areas.

To remove the free transport will definitely cause many current students in St Richard Gwyn High School to reconsider their options and likely decide not to continue with further education.

This will unquestionably add to the thousands of insufficiently educated, unprepared, untrained and therefore unemployed young people that already live in the Vale of Glamorgan.

As you may have gathered, I feel extremely strongly about this issue.

I am absolutely disgusted by the plan to remove the free transport. Many families just wouldn't be able to afford to send their children across Cardiff city every day – even with a subsidised fee and EMA – I know this from experience.

Please take my appeal seriously; I wholeheartedly believe that many a young person's future will be affected by removing the free transport, thus removing this opportunity, and not for their benefit.

I would like others from low income families like myself to freely receive the great opportunities at St David's college and the support from the council, so they too can become professionals and have great careers and futures.

Jade Denise Hodgson, Barry

Changes needed to make roads safer

I WISH to respond to the follow-up letter by Dr RP Sheppard, regarding the issue of cyclists/pedestrians using the B4270 Llantwit Major to Llandow road.

It appears that Dr Sheppard will never accept any ideas that I have put forward, which I must emphasise again, are not pure suggestion but born out of 20+ years of experience on my part. He thankfully agreed with one of my points, but denounced the rest saying they were impractical.

Rather than doing this, I would appreciate him making some constructive ideas of his own, as like him I would like to see safer roads for cyclists and pedestrians.

I will not suggest any further ideas as he will no doubt find fault with them.

In these days of busy roads, the cyclist/pedestrian is in the minority and always going to have a hard time, unless this country's attitude to transport changes.

Unless local transport improves or designated cycle routes are implemented, this imbalance is always going to exist.

It's up to the said road users to make their journeys as safe as practical and reduce the risks.

A recent example that I must bring to your attention of someone with no regard for his own safety, was a gentleman I saw recently on the road in question, who was walking (thankfully facing the oncoming traffic) towards Llantwit Major as it was getting dark, wearing camouflage trousers and jacket.

He was not only risking his own life, but presenting a road safety hazard, as traffic was swerving to avoid him, due to not being able to see him early enough!

I have not seen him on this road since; hopefully he didn't come to any harm.

P.J Alexander, Brackla

£2,000 raised in just one day for Haiti

LAST Saturday, a group of students with bright yellow jackets and red buckets went to the shops in Llantwit Major.

They hoped to raise a little money to donate to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

From early morning to late evening, they helped customers pack their shopping at Filco and stood around Somerfield, asking people if they would like to give a little contribution for the appeal.

With surprisingly heavy buckets, they arrived back at the campus of Atlantic College to count the donations. The students sorted out all the coins and notes under an hour, with amazing results: the residents of Llantwit Major had together donated £2,000 and 68 pennies.

This amount of money will provide water, supplies and a shelter for many families in Haiti.

Last Saturday, the people in Llantwit proved that with a little help from everyone you can make a huge difference.

Assi Askala, Atlantic College,

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 4)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
28 Thur	04.26	8.8	16.59	9.1
29 Fri	05.23	9.4	17.46	9.5
30 Sat	06.08	10.2	18.43	10.2
31 Sun	07.05	10.5	19.27	10.3
01 Mon	07.48	10.7	20.12	10.4
02 Tues	08.31	10.7	20.56	10.2
03 Wed	09.09	10.5	21.33	9.7
04 Thur	09.54	9.8	22.09	9.3

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National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
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CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
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RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 11.30am (Wed 4-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE

It is a sunny South African reunion in snowy Cowbridge!

ABOVE:
Left to right: Mr D Griffiths, Vikram Devalia, Lucy Williams, Ingrid Lestrade, Harriet Booth and Mr N Hopkins.

OVER the past week, Cowbridge Comprehensive School has welcomed Miss Ingrid Lestrade, a director of a South African charity called the Goedgedacht Trust – which the school has been supporting for four years through fundraising and highlighting awareness in the community.

This is Miss Lestrade's third visit to the school and she was excited to see the progress made on the new building.

Mr Griffiths, in charge of fundraising for the trust, explained the purpose of Miss Lestrade's visit was to 'help raise awareness of the charity within the school through a series of assemblies and workshops'.

Miss Lestrade held assemblies with years 7, 8, 11 and 12, as well as running workshops with students from both lower and middle schools.

During the workshops, she outlined the work of the trust, as well as getting students from year-9 to write letters to the students in South Africa to encourage them to stay in school, a major goal of the trust.

Miss Lestrade also taught the students of Cowbridge some of the songs that the students sing on the farm in South Africa.

During her time at Cowbridge, Miss Lestrade was guest of honour at a reunion of students who visited South Africa last summer.

The reunion was originally cancelled due to snow and rearranged. Both current and past students attended as well as the headteacher Mrs Margaret Evans.

The highlight of the reunion was a film put together by Mr Nathan Hopkins, a PE teacher and budding film director at Cowbridge, chronicling the events of the summer through both photographs and video taken by the students.

Miss Lestrade's visit was made possible through sponsorship by the school and a UK tour company. Mr Griffiths would like to thank the pupils of Cowbridge Comprehensive and Edwin Doran Travel for helping to sponsor the visit.

The school thanks the local community, Rotary Club and English Speaking Union for their generous support.

To find out more about the charity, visit the UK branch of the Goedgedacht Trust.

LYNNE GWATKIN

'MoD college past the point of no return'

– says Vale MP John Smith

VALE MP, John Smith, last week welcomed the new First Minister's close personal interest in "making sure the benefits of the £12 billion Defence Technical College at MoD St Athan are maximised in Wales."

Mr Smith said: "I welcome Carwyn Jones's firm commitment to the St Athan project.

"I want people here in the Vale and across Wales to remember that both the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government are fully behind the Defence Technical College going ahead at St Athan.

"They have repeatedly backed up their words of support with deeds. To date, the Government has underwritten over £110 million of essential works linked with the project to get the site ready for construction.

"I believe that we have gone beyond the point of no return and this Government has no intention of walking away from St Athan."

In his letter to Mr Smith, who has been at the forefront of the campaign to bring the tri-service MoD college to St Athan, Carwyn Jones, who is the AM for Bridgend, said: "I fully agree with you that the Defence Technical College is a major opportunity for Wales at St Athan.

"I very much support and welcome this investment as it will provide a significant boost for jobs, skills training and supply chain opportunities.

"I know that you have championed its cause from the outset and I want to reassure you that my officials are working closely with the Ministry of Defence, Metrix and with local partners to deliver the project and to maximize the benefits for Wales.

"Rest assured that I will continue to take a close personal interest in this matter," Mr Jones promised.

Charity concert

THE Town Mayor's charity gala concert in aid of Breast Cancer Care takes place on Saturday, January 30 at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre, featuring the Dowlais Male Voice Choir and artistes of the Welsh National Opera.

The concert starts at 7pm. Tickets available from the Town Clerk's office, David Barnes Dry Cleaners and Sorrento (price £8.)

Castles talk

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, February 5 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The 5th Don Wallis Memorial Lecture on timber castles in south Wales will be given by Charles Hill of Dyfed Archaeological Trust. All welcome.

Cowbridge mayor helps cancer charity celebrate new centre

The Cowbridge guests mingle at the charity's centre.

STAFF and volunteers at Breast Cancer Care Cymru were joined by the Mayor of Cowbridge, Coun Jon Harris and other guests to celebrate the opening of the charity's newly-refurbished centre on Cathedral Road, Cardiff last week.

"The charity's premises have been revamped to enable more people affected by breast cancer in Wales to access its range of free support services, including bi-monthly Information Sessions on breast cancer and support groups," explained spokeswoman Laura Grossart.

The charity also plans to launch Wales' first 'HeadStrong' service for people who are facing hair loss as a result of cancer treatment. Run by trained volunteers, the service will open in Cardiff in March. As well as emotional support, it will give patients the opportunity to learn about caring for their hair and scalp, try scarf-tying, hats and hairpieces to help manage the devastating impact of hair loss.

Elderly give the Assembly minister a tough grilling!

ABOVE: Elderly residents with the AM.

JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale, gave a talk to the Ogmore-by-Sea Retired Residents Association at their first meeting of 2010 in the Watermill Pub, where they meet every month.

She spoke about her role as an Assembly Government cabinet minister and as the AM serving the Vale of Glamorgan.

Afterwards, she reported: "There was a lively discussion following my talk, with many issues raised, including the frequency of buses, arrangements for waste disposal, home insulation, the Older People's Forum and the need for community facilities in Ogmore-by-Sea.

"I was delighted to have the opportunity of meeting so many active retired residents," she added.

Read your GEM online - cowbridge-today.co.uk

SCHOOL CAREERS FAIR AT LEISURE CENTRE

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School is hosting a careers fair at Cowbridge Leisure Centre tomorrow (Friday, January 29) with sponsorship from Carillion and Careers Wales.

It will be open between 9.30am and 3.30pm and will be introduced by Coun Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council. Jane Hutt AM will formally open the event at 10.30am.

A school spokeswoman said: "As well as students from Cowbridge Comprehensive, students and teachers from other Vale secondary schools will be attending. Parents and members of the public are welcome to visit.

"Doors are open to all comers from 1.30pm onwards, where they will be able to enjoy a Fairtrade Café, as well as finding out more about the world of work.

"More than 50 exhibitions are supporting the event alongside Carillion and other partners in the Cowbridge Construction project.

"They will represent higher education, the health service, central and local government as well as the design and construction sector."

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'May-day' response as an elderly Vale resident is taken home – on a sledge!

by TIM CHAPMAN

A LLANTWIT MAJOR woman is proof that the age of chivalry is not dead after being pulled home on a sledge by a Good Samaritan following a nasty fall on a icy road.

Mrs May Davies, aged 84, of Ham Lane told The GEM: "It was during the snowy weather. I was on my way home with my shopping and was trying to be so careful as I walked along.

"In Sea View Place, I stepped from a strip of grass with snow on it and onto the road. My foot landed on some ice and it shot forward and I fell over.

"Some children and a woman called Heather came over. She asked how I was as I tried to struggle up, but I could not put my right foot down. The pain was horrendous.

"A man called Gareth was walking along with a sledge and some children and he suggested: 'Could you sit on the sledge?'"

Mrs Davies took up the offer and was pulled all the way home to her front door by Gareth, who helped her into the house.

Heather brought Mrs Davies's shopping home and helped to put it away.

Mrs Davies said: "She then took the time to phone the doctor who was at my house within about five minutes."

Fortunately, although Mrs Davies was in severe pain, she had not broken anything.

"I had severe bruising and pulled ligaments. I've been told it will take me about four to six weeks to fully recover."

Mrs Davies is a member of the Llantwit Major Bowling Club – last year she was the president – and hopes to be fighting fit for the new season.

"I want to thank Gareth and Heather – I don't know their full names – for all their help on the day I fell over. They were marvellous. There is no way I could have walked home.

"I also want to thank my neighbour Shirley Jury for helping so much since the accident, making cups of tea and helping me wash.

"My husband is not well and Shirley has been fantastic."

Mrs Davies's daughter Marilyn has travelled up to Llantwit from Cornwall to keep an eye on her while she recovers.

May relaxing at home – she has been advised that it will take four to six weeks to fully recover from her fall.

Cowbridge juniors now emerge from hibernation

FOLLOWING on from a hugely successful under-14s season, the Cowbridge RFC under-15s have had little opportunity to play together this season due to their vast district representation, and the cold weather.

However, with the Vales Schools fixture cancelled last weekend, it gave the boys the opportunity to play only their fourth game of the season, as the boys travelled to Bryncethin for the first-ever game between the two sides.

Despite the enforced lay-off due to the recent bad weather, the boys hit their stride within minutes as breaks from skipper Gus MacPherson and blockbusting centre Christian Walters reduced the home defence to ribbons as Freddie Harries opened the scoring with a fine try in the corner.

Straight from the kick-off, back rower Ollie Hitchings carved a huge hole in the home defence to send a pop pass to the supporting James Griffiths, for Rhys Griffin to finish off a sweeping move for the second try.

Breaks from Evan Phillips, Tom Cunnington, and Lloyd Stock enabled Hitchings to touch down twice, and Harries claim his second try. A fine try by scrum-half Lewis Llewelyn took the score to 41-0 to finish a scintillating first half.

Aware that the game would have to be stopped if they reached 50 points, but not wanting to lose the opportunity to at least get some game practice, the Cowbridge boys swapped around the forwards and backs, and this, combined with a rejuvenated home side, made the short second half a much fairer exchange.

To their credit, Bryncethin opened the scoring in the second half, and competed far more strongly at the breakdowns. Nevertheless, the remainder of the game was played in the home half as the visitors tried to extend the game by practising all their moves and avoid scoring; at times the boys were playing an intoxicating style of sevens as the ball was spun from one side of the pitch to another.

Charley Morris, Sean Boga Lake, and Keiran Smith all contributed to the fluidity, and Morris in particular with his 'torpedo' like tackling ensured any home side attacks were snuffed out early.

Inevitably the pressure told, as Hitchings claimed his hat-trick, and flanker Cunnington waltzed through the defence for the final touchdown, bringing the final score to 57-5, and the game to an early end.

In the muddy conditions, Chris Walters did well to convert most of the tries, including one superb effort from near the touchline reminiscent of his touchline conversion against Worcester last season which won the game.

With players of the calibre of James Sheekey and Tom Murray unavailable due to injury, and Matt Goodlad and Harri Hitchcock on skiing duty for the school, the boys appear to be carrying on from where they left off last season with a well-balanced squad competing for places.

Coach John Hitchings was particularly pleased to see captain MacPherson in fine form and obviously benefiting from the training he is receiving from the Blues under-16s, where such is his potential he plays for the older age group.

Similarly, the centre partnership between Walters and Griffiths is developing to be one of the most destructive on the circuit, as both these boys are possessed with strength, speed, and bravery in abundance.

Depending on the weather and the Vale Schools fixture backlog, the boys will hopefully get another game together in Cowbridge colours before too long.

Local Transition group meets

THE Llantwit Major Transition group's monthly meeting will be held in the Lounge Bar of the White Hart pub, Llantwit on the first Tuesday of each month.

These informal meetings will be useful to those who are interested in sustaining and building our local communities and wish to discuss green issues, or wider environmental concerns.

Come along to meet new friends, have a chat and drinks from 8pm on Tuesday, February 2.

For more information, go to http://valetransition.ning.com/ We look forward to seeing you there! **TC**

NEWS FROM THE MAENDY YFC

All eyes now turning to the annual county competition

THE festive period was a particularly busy time for Maendy YFC – including an evening of carol singing around Ystradowen.

The club would like to extend its sincere thanks to Beverley and Mervyn Lewis of Long Acre; Hilary and Brian Rees of Pleasant View; Liz and Graham Jervis of Windy Ridge; and Julie and Mark Jarvis of Gelli Goch Farm, who all welcomed the singing members into their homes and provided refreshments – not forgetting kind donations for the Welsh Kidney Foundation.

A total of £52 was raised. Food and drinks at The White Lion rounded off the night, where there was a lovely atmosphere among family and friends.

The club's focus is now set on the fast approaching annual Glamorgan YFC drama competition, to be held at The Princess Royal Theatre on February 11-12 (6.30pm start).

Tickets can be purchased from Heather Sedgebeer at the Glamorgan YFC office, Pencoed College, telephone 01656 864488, or email Glamorgan@yfcwales.org.uk.

This year, Maendy have two teams competing and practices have been going smoothly, despite a few disruptions due to the snow!

The annual club dress rehearsal and parents evening will take place on Sunday, February 7 at Peterston-Super-Ely village hall. Doors open at 7pm, curtain up 7.30pm.

This will be a chance for friends and family to have a sneak preview at Maendy's productions. There will be light refreshments on the night, together with a raffle in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

For more information, contact the club chairman on 07841 486440.

If that isn't enough to keep everyone busy, January 31 is the senior debating and junior public speaking competitions at Pencoed College.

This competition had to be postponed from its original date due to the snow, but members have used the time to prepare their speeches and are now ready to go! **HL**

Council seeks to honour sporting stars

THE Vale Council is inviting residents to reward local sporting excellence during 2009 by sending in nominations for the 'Vale Sports Personality of the Year' awards.

There are a total of 10 award categories and the deadline for all nominations is Sunday, January 31.

These could be elite performers who made the headlines during 2009 or individuals and teams who are making a big impact on the local sporting scene.

For example, it could be a coach who is achieving excellent results against the odds, or a volunteer who goes the extra mile.

All nominees must either be from the Vale currently live there, or represent a team or club in the county.

The categories in full are – senior male, senior female, junior male, junior female, unsung hero, disabled sportsperson, team of the year, performance coach, community coach and school of the year.

Organised by volunteers from the Vale District Sports Council and supported by the Vale Council's sports and play development team, the annual ceremony will be held in the spring.

Nominations can be made online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportspersonality or request a form by calling Julie Morgan on 01446 704748.

Making the most of the winter garden

MERTHYR MAWR WI NEWS

IT was good to see president Margaret Batten back at the January meeting, following her recent illness.

She opened the meeting and thanked members for all the cards and good wishes they sent during her recent spell in hospital.

The Christmas dinner in December had been a great success and all enjoyed an excellent meal provided by Jane Morgan. Carol singing was led by Olga Wolfenden and Val Manning.

Members were reminded of the half yearly council meeting in April, when the speaker will be Ruth Jones. They were pleased to hear that a team from Glamorgan Federation has reached the competition round of BBC television's 'Eggheads' and delighted that one of the team, Gwerfil Gardner, comes from Merthyr Mawr WI.

Members are looking forward to seeing them on television around July time.

Following the business part of the evening, they welcomed Kevin Thomas from Bryncethin nursery, who gave an interesting and entertaining talk on winter gardening.

With the use of slides, he explained how much interest could be found in a winter garden through good use of suitable plants – such as Daphne, skimmia, hellebores – and using plants and shrubs with interesting shapes, stems and bark. Joan Kelly gave the vote of thanks.

The next meeting on February 3, at Ewenny Community Hall, will be a practical evening of painting, led by Alice Coulter and Joan Glascoe. **FC**

Read your GEM online - cowbridge-today.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

A COFFEE morning to view plans for the play and memorial areas in Wick Road, Ewenny, which had been cancelled due to the inclement weather, will now be held on Saturday, February 6 from 10.30am-12.30pm in Ewenny Priory Church.

The Ewenny Community Council thanks all those parents who took forms at the children's party in December for completion at home, confirming their support for the plans.

They are asked to return them to the clerk of the council as soon as possible so that they can apply for grant aid as soon as possible.

OGMORE BY SEA Retired Residents Association met for the first time in 2010 for a bar lunch on January 21.

Adrian was chairman for the meeting and asked members to stand in respect for Michael Wilding, who passed away recently. Our thoughts go out to Doreen at her sad loss.

It was sad to hear of Miriam's fall and hope for her speedy recovery.

Happy birthday was sung to two members, Joan who was 90 on January 19, and Kath, 80 on January 23.

This was followed by a visit from Welsh Assembly Member Jane Hutt (not an unfamiliar person in our area), who spoke about work in the Assembly and answered questions put to her by the members of ORRA.

THE Ladies Thursday Club held their first meeting of the new year in the school on January 21 with a talk by Diane Boyd of 'Boyds Basement', a Mobile Dress Agency for south Wales.

This dynamic lady told of her home shopping service, catering for all ladies and children.

Members were also able to view some of the excellent photographs that Roger Lewis had taken during the snow.

FEBRUARY 1 is St Bridget's Day when the parish of St Brides Major will be celebrating with a Celtic Eucharist in the church, followed by an Irish evening at the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major.

Riders' double success

LOCAL riders Nick Williams and James Tudor both rode winners over the weekend.

At Larkhill on Saturday, Tudor was successful on the odds-on favourite *Roulez Cool* and Williams took a division of the maiden on *That'll Do*.

n Sunday, Tudor scored on *Start Royal* in the intermediate race at the Waveney Harriers meeting, and Williams won on *Fredwell* at the Tiverton point-to-point.

Tudor and Williams are assistant trainers to Llancarfan's Evan Williams who saddled 12-1 winner *Akarshan* in the handicap hurdle race at Market Rasen; stable jockey Paul Moloney was in the saddle. **BRIAN LEE**

Pastels demo

THE Cowbridge Art Society meets on Thursday, February 4 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when there will be a demonstration and first part of a practical in pastels with local painter George Goddard.

There will also be a workshop on February 6 from 10am-4pm in Llanblethian Church Hall, Bridge Road, Llanblethian, when local artist Arnold Lowry will be showing how it is all done!

Enquiries to 01656 860095 or 01446 775735. Cost £20. Non-members welcome.

School's 150th birthday reunion – and a chance to see 'the way we were'

ABOVE: Class 4 from 1985 – is it really 25 years ago already?

LLANSANNOR and Lanharry Church in Wales Primary School is holding a reunion tomorrow, January 29, to mark the school's 150th birthday.

The reunion is an open invite to anyone associated with the school over the years and is not restricted to pupils and staff.

Mrs Keris Howard explained: "We're holding the reunion at the school on Friday from 5pm-8pm, and anybody who went to the school or has had a connection with it is invited."

"For some people it will be a chance to see how the school has changed in recent years – the year 2000 saw the 'new build', and 2003 saw the 'early years unit'."

The reunion will include an exhibition featuring a number of photographs, many reminding people of what they looked like when they were attending the school.

The school's story started on November 5, 1859 when deeds were passed from Alexander Young Spearman of Llansannor Court to the Archdeacon of Llandaff allowing for a school to be built.

LEFT: Dr Barry Morgan opening the school's 'new build' in the year 2000.

ABOVE: The school rugby team in 1998 with the current headteacher Mr Paul Fisher (right) and Mr Ken East the current deputy headmaster.

Full house at Churches Together talk

MORE than 80 people packed the United Free Church Hall in Cowbridge on Monday evening (January 25), to hear Rev Dr Noel Davies speak on Darwin, Dawkins and a Creator God.

Churches Together in Cowbridge and District organised the talk to mark a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, in the belief that many relish a challenge and seek engagement with the whole spectrum of thought.

Dr Alun Armstrong, treasurer of Churches Together, introduced Dr Davies, a friend from university days, and soon had the room in stitches. Dr Davies' reply had the audience laughing again, and he began his talk by asking those present to discuss with their neighbour how they reacted to the title of the talk.

Immediately the hall was alive with animated discussion. From there, Dr Davies led us through the history of Darwin's research and its impact on Christian thought – which continues to this day.

He looked at Richard Dawkin's scientific views, then showed how these understandings can be consistent today with a Christian belief in God as Creator and an understanding of human beings as being in the image of God.

It was nearly 9pm when question time was brought to a close and the audience then continued their discussions over a glass of wine.

Churches Together will plan another evening talk; meanwhile, their popular soup lunch takes place on Sunday, March 7 in the Lesser Hall, at Cowbridge Town Hall.

Pupils find a fun route to science and technology

PUPILS at St. Brides Major Church in Wales Primary school have had fun with science and technology in the 'XL' Wales Roadshow.

Roadshow leader, Mr. Ian Hill led a series of exciting activities across the schools to engage learners and encourage creativity.

Activities included 'Rock Steady' for year-3 pupils, who explored the origins of rocks, their similarities and differences, through practical activities.

Year-4 pupils worked collaboratively to design, make and test a burglar alarm, while infant classes explored and experimented with materials.

Pupils have also been enjoying food technology – baking bread was great fun and what a gorgeous smell!

Great fun was had by all and the school is looking forward to holding a special 'Irish' day in honour of St Bridget's day on February 1.

Prospective parents wishing to visit the school can telephone 01656 880477 for further information.

ABOVE: As the pictures show, the pupils has great fun learning.

NEWS FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR WI

MANY events in January at Llantwit Major WI had to be cancelled because of the snow and it was even more disappointing to have to cancel the festive lunch.

However, the branch is hoping to arrange to have the lunch at a later date. At the next meeting on February 4, David Allen will be speaking about walking in the Himalayas.

There will be a stall with unwanted presents. The competition is for a knitted hat.

Brigade ready for chess match

THE Anchor and Junior sections of the Llantwit Major Boys Brigade enjoyed festive parties and the company section had a special Christmas meal, thanks to the chef and his staff!

The company boys are back 'on the road' again, having entered the national chess and Masterteam competitions.

In the first round of the chess, the three boys were drawn away to Torquay, returning with a 6-3 win.

For the next round, it is back to Devon to play Bovey Tracey in the Masterteam for four boys. The first round was held in Gloucester, with teams from Gloucester, Haslington, West Bromwich and Bath.

The competition has 10 rounds and the top two teams go forward to round two.

Llantwit Major won and travel to Torquay where they are drawn against Torquay, Gloucester, Chandler's Ford and Paignton.

Good luck in the next set of games, boys! Llantwit Major are the sole Welsh team to enter these competitions.

A WELLSBURY (Company Captain)

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Church gift

REV Canon Hamer and churchwardens of St Mary Hill Church, have thanked Mr and Mrs David Mathews and Mr John Stanley for their donation to the church of a candleholder in memory of their friend, Mr Colin Vaughan.

The gift was dedicated at Sunday morning service by Canon Hamer in the presence of Colin's family and close friends.

Colin will be remembered for his kindness to the church over many year, and will be widely missed.

Church gift

YOUNG At Heart Club members resumed their meetings on January 21, a little later than planned.

This was due in part to the very cold weather, with many members being unable to leave their homes, and inconvenience caused by building work on the kitchen.

When the work is completed, it will be a welcome improvement for users of the hall.

A warm welcome was given to member Bill Jones, on his return to the club following surgery at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

He in turn, thanked the club for the lovely basket of fruit he received.

New members are always welcome on Thursday at 1.30pm-3pm in the Treoes village hall.

Hall art

TREOES village hall art classes have resumed on Wednesday afternoons.

A male voice choir use the hall facilities for practice on three Mondays of each month.

Diary date

OVER the past few years, carol services at St Canna's Llangan have coincided on the same Sunday in December as the carol service in Saron Chapel, Treoes, which, unfortunately, prevents older residents attending both services.

Saron Chapel, Treoes, will hold their carol service on December 12 at 3pm.

Cowbridge lad is a real photographic whiz-kid!

A VALE schoolboy is celebrating, after winning a national photographic competition.

Super snapper David Harris, who is aged just six, has been chosen from hundreds of entrants – to be crowned one of the 'Top Tot Photographers of the Year' in a national competition held by Fisher-Price and Toys R Us.

David's winning photo, '*Dinosaur*', taken during a summer trip to the caves at Dan-yr-Ogof, was chosen by a panel of expert judges.

David, who lives in Llandow and is a pupil at St David's School, Colwinston, has really caught the camera bug.

His mother Louise told The GEM: "David has been interested in photography since taking part in a school project last year. Since then, he has become unstoppable, taking pictures of whatever takes his eye and using our digital camera whenever he has the chance."

As part of his prize, David has scooped tons of toys, including a Kid-Tough Digital Camera of his own, and is set to see his work recreated as a giant poster for thousands to admire.

Jon Adams, the competition judge and editor of photography magazine *Digital Photo*, explained: "Kids aren't tainted by the 'rules' of photography like adults, and this means they often shoot pictures that are truly refreshing and bursting with energy.

"David's dinosaur is very nicely composed and really looks part of the scene – with the landscape in the background. Well done!,"

The competition, which called for creative camerawork from tots up and down the country, was held to celebrate the launch of the new Fisher-Price Kid Tough Digital Camera.

David is very much the family's official photographer now, and his mum and dad, Louise and Richard, can barely get a look in. Neither can his sister Elin or brother Morgan.

Louise said: "When the recent snows came, David was out early when the snow was still fresh and took photos of all the houses in the village."

In fact, David is hoping to use his photos of that day to raise money for the Haiti appeal.

This Saturday (January 30), residents have organised a 'bring and buy' sale in Llandow Village Hall, from 10am - 2pm.

David's portfolio of snow scenes will be on sale – and he hopes that everyone will by their own home, at least.

The sale will have all the usual items as well, with cakes, DVDs and perhaps the odd unwanted Christmas gift on offer!

ABOVE:
David Harris must be the Vale's youngest photographic prizewinner.

BELOW: 'You looking at me?' David's winning photo, taken at Dan-yr-Ogof Caves.

Read your GEM online - cowbridge-today.co.uk or llantwit-major-today.co.uk

'Big drop in Vale crime'
– police force statistics reveal

CRIME figures released by the Home Office show that crime fell in the Vale during the 12 months to September 2009, compared to the year before, a police spokesman stated this week.

The report on crime figures recorded that there were 1,040 fewer victims of crime for the year, a decrease of 11.4 per cent. There were significant reductions in dwelling burglaries (down 17.8 per cent/65 offences) violent crime (down 13.7 per cent/272 offences) and criminal damage (down 15.1 per cent/350 offences).

Chief Superintendent Carl Davies of the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Police, said:

"I am are very proud of the achievements of my officers and staff in the Vale in reducing and detecting crime, especially the reduction in burglaries of homes and businesses with 149 fewer victims.

"This clearly demonstrates the passion and commitment of staff to solve issues with and for the community.

"The overall reduction of 11.4 per cent in all crime has been achieved, not only by our relentless pursuit of targeted criminals, who commit a disproportionate number of the crimes committed in our communities, but also by work done with the local authority, other partners and the voluntary sector.

"In the Vale of Glamorgan, we are very fortunate to have a good relationship with the community.

"I encourage members of the public to continue giving us help and information to keep the community safe."

Mixed fortunes during week for Cowbridge squash teams

COWBRIDGE squash teams were back in action this week following the Christmas/New Year break, when a large proportion of the players were involved with the club's roof insulation project.

Nick Guard's Bar 44 'A' team were able to host Newport 'F' following strenuous efforts by Mike Board and his team of volunteers to make the courts available for play, despite work still being carried out at the building.

This match also marked the return to competitive team squash (after 15 months) of Richie Ford following knee surgery and rehab.

Turning out at No 5, Richie took a very hard-fought first game 10-8, but there was no fairytale to tell. Unfortunately, he picked up another niggling leg injury and limped to a 1-3 defeat.

The rest of the team excelled, only dropping one more game to record a win with bonus points of 18-4. Niall Sloan and Garfield Leask produced solid matches to record 3-0 and 3-1 victories at Nos 4 and 3 respectively.

The sparkling performances of the night were produced by Nos 2 and 1, Jon Bisson and Nick Guard – both winning 3-0 (only dropping eight points and 11 points in doing so).

The fortunes of the Cowbridge 'B' Bar 44 were not as good but nonetheless they came away from Old Penarthians with a creditable eight points.

Russ Watts and his 'boys' have been round the block more than once and some are showing the signs of wear more than others – but they battle on!

Skipper Watts these days is perhaps better suited to writing about squash than trying to play – the No 5 forced his creaking knees to a comprehensive 0-3 defeat by another pentagenarian Gary Blackmore, who can boast hip surgery enhancement!

Steve Morris (No 4) has started where he had left off before Christmas with a resounding 3-0 defeat (only dropping four points) off Nick West (similar to the last time the two players met). No 3 Chris Ranger found himself in a 2-0 lead against a very fit opponent but just couldn't find enough to clinch a positive result, eventually losing 2-3.

Simon Payne, at No1, as always put in a battling performance but was possibly still protecting a recent back injury and so went down 0-3.

Even though the team match was lost, possibly the best string of the night for competitiveness, grit and determination was at No 2, where Paul Reynish pulled out a fine win and a great cheer from his teammates to beat a never-say-die Paul Graddon to win 9-6 in the fifth. Match result 8-15.

This week, Cowbridge 'B' Bar 44 entertain Barry Leisure (Thursday, January 28) while the A and C teams were away on Wednesday 27 to Caldicot and David Lloyd's respectively.

RW

LLANTWIT MAJOR NETBALL RESULTS ROUND-UP

B team on top form

LLANTWIT Major B team started this year with a positive attitude, beginning the game against Cwm Garw in a fighting spirit.

Llantwit scored 10 goals before Cwm Garw found the scoresheet. Llantwit continued to dominate the first half with excellent shooting from (GS) Jess Richards (player of the match).

During the final two quarters, Llantwit increased their lead substantially with strong defence and precise attack allowing them to convert turnovers and rebounds into quick goals.

The young Llantwit team ended triumphantly, winning 27-12.

Llantwit Major B has played some excellent netball during their debut season. Great progress has been made and they have developed into a confident cohesive unit.

A team take on Ponty

LLANTWIT Major A played Pontypridd A and the game was fiercely contested from the start with both teams battling hard for possession.

Llantwit's defensive unit of Charlotte Wright, Lizzie Thomas (player of the match) and Emily Cooper shut down Ponty in the first two quarters, ensuring that Ponty's shooting opportunities were restricted.

Unfortunately, the final two quarters were dominated by the strong Ponty team, who displayed some outstanding defence and accurate shooting.

Llantwit made their move several times throughout the game; but remained too far behind to catch up.

The game finished Llantwit 29, Pontypridd 39.

Llantwit obviously are highly disappointed with the result, but the players showed passion and determination, with some outstanding court play.

Beth Evans (Coach)

CCTV arrests

CCTV, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with five arrests in the week to January 24.

CCTV contacted the police on 16 occasions and the arrests, all in Barry, related to wanted on warrant (Wyndham Street), drunk in charge of a car (Station Approach), assault (Dunlin Court), theft (Barry Island) and criminal damage (Holton Road).

Under-12s get financial backing

LLANTWIT Major under-12s are to be sponsored by City Group, 32 Holton Road, Barry, who provide financial advice relating to people throughout the Vale.

Llantwit Major under-12s soccer side are currently unbeaten with 13 straight wins and are top of the Vale Junior league.

The team are pictured with Adam Rees of City Group.

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Lessons from the past in standing up for people...

AS we continue to witness the devastation of Haiti on our television screens, we hear about the fire service team from Wales who have played their part in rescuing people from the rubble, even after many days of agony following the earthquake.

This week, we heard that over £1 million has been raised in Wales, including schools, businesses and churches in the Vale of Glamorgan. At least 22 Indian restaurants and Take Aways in the Vale of Glamorgan have joined the relief effort, offering 50 per cent of their takings yesterday.

I visited as many as I could in Barry to say thank you for their support.

The First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM issued a statement saying he was proud that Welsh people are playing a vital part in this massive humanitarian effort are are standing up for the people of Haiti.

This week was also Holocaust Memorial Week, with a programme of events in the Vale – including the moving and inspiring exhibition in Art Central with the Legacy of Hope, involving artist in residence Nicola Tucker and Vale schools who produced art work, following workshops with the artist on the Holocaust.

The film 'Against the Tide' had its UK premiere on Thursday, January 28 at the Memorial Hall. The Race Equality First 2010 calendar displaying the children's art competition winners was displayed at Art Central.

As Louise Hector of the Legacy of Hope said: "*Holocaust Memorial Day 2010 is especially poignant as it marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.*

"The day is an opportunity to listen to the voices from the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, and to make the lessons of hope for a safer, inclusive society where the differences between us are respected as a reality today and in the future."

As we settle into the business and pressures of 2010 in the Assembly, we look with optimism at the latest labour market statistics which show encouraging signs of improvement in Wales, but this is set back by our deep disappointment about the Bosch announcement that they are pulling out of Wales.

Over the past year, I have been meeting with the plant managers and the workforce plant council. We offered the management every assistance from the Assembly Government – Proact, support for research and development, urging them to bring new product lines to Wales.

At every meeting, we were told by management they did not want or need our assistance and that it was "*out of their hands*".

Last week, I met the plant council, with their union representatives, and a statement was made by the Deputy First Minister in the Senedd.

We have not given up, and are making further representations to Bosch chiefs in Stuttgart.

We must stand up for the highly skilled Bosch workforce. There must be new opportunities for the Bosch workforce here in Wales in this factory we helped to pay for.

Finally, we must recognise that there are people throughout Wales in every community 'standing up for people' and this includes young people and older people.

This week, Jane Davidson announced the six young people who are to become the figureheads for young people on climate change, after winning a Welsh Assembly Government competition.

One of them is Rose Stevens aged 15 from Barry. The six youngsters will spend a year 'in office' spreading the word about how people can take simple but effective steps to reduce their carbon footprint while saving money at the same time.

They will make sure the voice of young people can be heard at a high level – standing up for the environment.

Last week, we debated the work of the Older People's Commissioner in Wales who is standing up for older people as their independent champion.

We are the first country in the world to appoint an Older People's Commissioner and we were the first in the UK to appoint a Children's Commissioner.

They can't solve all the problems and issues facing older people and children, but they are independent from government and we respect them for their roles.

They can tell us what action we should be taking to respond to the needs of older people and children from their experience and evidence.

Standing up for people is an important part of the role of any elected representative, at every level of government – as well as in our workplaces, communities and in response to natural disaster and conflict across the world.

We can all learn from the events of the past and present in this respect – and make sure our voices are heard.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Business and Budget)

Vale AM's praise for exhibition

Jane Hutt AM with Nicola Tucker's work at the Art Central's Holocaust memorial exhibition, which is open until January 30.

Rhoose mum is Lib Dems choice

ELUNED PARROTT (35) will contest the Vale parliamentary seat for the Liberal Democrats at the general election later this year.

She lives in Rhoose with her husband and young family, and works at Cardiff University (where she also studied) as community engagement manager, leading a team that organises educational outreach projects and events for the public.

Mrs Parrott is chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Lib Dems and has been "an active campaigner in the Vale for many years".

This will be the first time that she has stood in a general election.

Commenting on her selection, she said: " I am delighted and honoured to have been given the opportunity to fight for the Vale and represent the views of local people on a wider stage.

"People see the Vale as an affluent area with few problems, but we all know that our young people struggle to find work locally and many of our commercial centres are struggling.

'The Vale needs a strong voice in Westminster to bring reliable investment here."

***ABOVE:** Eluned Parrott, who will be contesting the Vale parliamentary seat for the Liberal Democrats at the general election.*

Rhoose speeding

NEIGHBOURHOOD police officers in Rhoose are warning motorists to drive within the speed limits or risk facing prosecution.

PC Phil Davies, the Rhoose community beat manager, has recently completed a course for the 'hand held speed reduction device' after concerns about speeding traffic, particularly in the 20mph zone outside Rhoose Primary School, were brought up at the last Rhoose PACT meeting.

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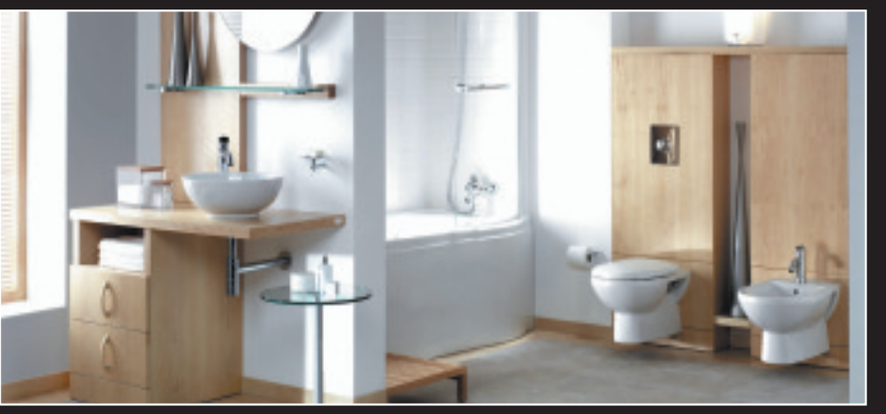

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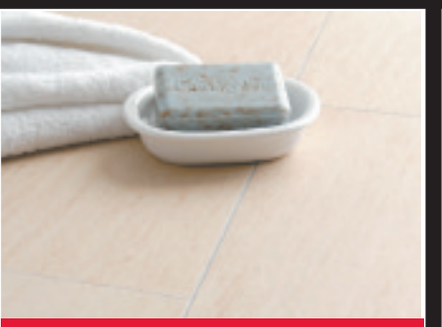

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PAWS for thought – of the animals

CHRISTMAS may be gone, but it is not forgotten as far as PAWS' furry friends are concerned, thanks to the generosity of the local community!

The Porthcawl Animal Welfare Society is pleased to report that a number of initiatives held over the festive season generated some much-needed funds for the charity.

The sum of £180 was raised from our two Christmas trees of remembrance, which were festooned with stars purchased by people in fond memory of their favourite pets; while avid swimmer Helga Collier braved the Bristol Channel for the annual Porthcawl Swim, raising £400.

The proceeds from both were used towards feeding, vaccinating, spaying/neutering and micro-chipping just some of the many cats and dogs we rescued in December.

Funding for the charity is an ongoing challenge and PAWS would like to thank the local community for their invaluable support.

It was heartening to know that needy cats and dogs were remembered at the end of a difficult year for many!

Alexis Kirsten
(for the PAWS volunteers)

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'INDEPENDENT VOICES WELCOME IN THE VALE'

MAY I be allowed to comment on what is possibly one of the most crass remarks that I have ever heard a politician make in the pages of your newspaper?

The comment by Plaid's Shirley Hodges that "The problem with Independent councillors is that they don't have to care about anyone other than themselves", is an insult to the thousands of hard working, conscientious Independent councillors throughout the country and almost defies belief.

I, for one, welcome the participation of those local individuals who are prepared to contribute their time and efforts to help administer their local community under an Independent label.

Mrs Hodge presumably feels that independence from a party line would be a hindrance to genuine Independent councillors free of such dictatorship. I'm afraid that I find the logic behind this argument quite baffling.

Chuck into the mix Plaid claiming credit for everything – from negotiating the fall of the Berlin wall, to being responsible for every positive thing that has ever happened in the Vale, despite their often minimal or non-existent involvement – and it is hardly surprising that they are again trying to hop on the back of the 'Save the Cemetery Approach' group's valiant efforts to help the community.

I say best of luck to the Independents in the next round of local authority elections, rather than those who run round claiming credit for others' hard work.

Kevin Mahoney
(UKIP candidate for Vale of Glamorgan)

Be Loud, Be Clear – how to help beat bowel cancer

TOO many people are needlessly dying from bowel cancer; it is the UK's second biggest cancer killer, yet over 90 per cent of cases could be treated successfully if diagnosed early.

That's where screening comes in; if you are aged 60-69, you are eligible for the NHS bowel cancer screening and will receive a kit every two years to complete and return by post.

January 25-31 is BE LOUD BE CLEAR, Beating Bowel Cancer's annual campaigning week which raises awareness of bowel cancer.

For 2010, the charity is urging everyone eligible to participate in screening.

In addition, Beating Bowel Cancer is calling for an extension of the screening programme to include everyone aged 50-74, so that more people at risk of bowel cancer have the opportunity to be screened and beat the disease.

My grandfather died of bowel cancer and my mother is currently fighting the disease, so I know only too well how important it is to BE LOUD about bowel cancer.

For more information about BE LOUD BE CLEAR, including fun ways you can get involved, visit *www.beatingbowelcancer.org*.

Matt Dawson MBE
(Patron of Beating Bowel Cancer)

St Cyres head's new position

MR BRIAN LIGHTMAN, who has been the headteacher at St Cyres School in Penarth for more than ten years, is to leave in the summer, after being confirmed as the new general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders.

Mr Lightman will take over from Dr John Dunford, who is retiring at the end of August 2010.

Mr Lightman has been on the ASCL's council since 1998 and was the association president in 2007-08. He was president of ASCL Cymru in 2003-04.

He said: "Having been a member of ASCL for nearly 20 years, I am proud of the quality of service the association provides.

"Under John Dunford's inspirational stewardship of the last 12 years, the association has played an exceptional part in the leadership of education services in the UK.

"I am looking forward to the exciting challenge of building on this strong base and leading ASCL through the next stages of its development."

John Morgan, the organisation's president for 2009-10 and head of Conyers School in Stockton-on-Tees, led the general secretary appointment panel.

He said: "I am delighted that Brian Lightman will be ASCL's next general secretary. He is an excellent headteacher and was an outstanding president of the association in 2007-08.

"His passion for education and learning, and his long-standing commitment to ASCL, and supporting our members, make him an ideal person to lead the association."

Mr Lightman became the headteacher at St Cyres in 1999, and prior to that was the headteacher at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

WE welcome your news and views. Email them to the editorial department:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

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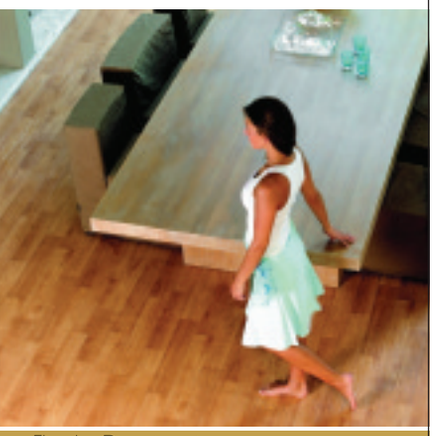

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Army officer Adam spends birthday on patrol in Afghanistan

A VALE soldier has celebrated his 25th birthday – by leading his men into action in Afghanistan.

Platoon Commander Lieut Adam Libbey of 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh (Royal Welch Fusiliers) was on his first operation in Helmand province.

Lieut Libbey, from Barry, said the morale in his platoon was "high", and added: "We'd spent lots of time waiting and training, so it was good to go out on the ground for the first time – and it was my birthday on the day we set out, so you can't beat that.

"The platoon was excited to go out there. We've been training for more than six months, so everyone was just eager to get out there and do the job. It's what we've trained for."

The role of platoon commander is a busy and wide-ranging one on tour.

"I have 35 blokes under my command at the moment and I have to make sure they are all doing the right thing at the right time," he said.

"I have section commanders at the lower levels, but I am the overall commander of the 35. I am concerned with everything from their and their families' welfare to orders on the ground."

Adam has two brothers, Gareth (serving with the Royal Engineers) and Ryan (at university).

His parents, Rick and Linda, are supportive of his role in the battalion: "I'm from an Army background, so my dad knows what is going on, but my mother still finds it very hard, especially as I was away for Christmas. But she knows I want to be out here, so it makes it a bit easier."

Twelve hours after they returned, Adam discussed the operation with the other platoon commanders while checking his kit.

"It was a successful operation," he reported. "The aim was to disrupt the insurgents and gain intelligence, which we did. In fact, we gathered more than we expected.

"There was pretty intense fighting, with contacts lasting hours but everyone did well. We worked with the ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) who were outstanding.

"They are a great asset to have on the ground – they talk easily with the locals and have an excellent feel for the atmospherics.

"This enabled us to have early warning when something was about to happen. The boys are now carrying out admin and checking kit, relaxing a little before the next op."

At home, Adam plays rugby for the battalion rugby team – a sport he describes as his "life passion".

"Obviously it hasn't been much of a season as we're out here, but hopefully when we get back, we will win the Army Cup again! The Royal Welsh, historically, has always had a good rugby team.

"As with a lot of people from south Wales, it's all about the rugby. Also, I live down by the seaside, so I sometimes go fishing or kayaking," Lieut Libbey added.

The changing face of a Cadoxton landmark

ABOVE: Cadoxton House as it is today.

ABOVE: Where have all the trees gone? The land around Cadoxton House.

THE face of a well known Barry landmark – Cadoxton House, has changed after the land around it was shorn of trees.

The GEM reported last week on how work had started on the 18th century premises to convert it into a community building to be used by statutory, voluntary and charitable organisations.

A number of trees have been felled to allow for a new access road into the car park and the Vale Council confirmed that the trees were not subject to preservation orders.

One GEM reader was, Alan Selby, was dismayed that trees had been removed.

He said: "Having read the article about the felling of trees at Cadoxton House, I once again hold my head in my hands at the ridiculous assertion concerning the Monkey Puzzle Tree that was felled.

"Apparently, because it didn't have a preservation order attached to it, there was no problem in cutting it down.

"This was a landmark tree in Cadoxton which had no protection against an unfeeling council!" he protested.

Lifeboat helps out 'bailers'

REPORTS that a small boat was in danger of sinking off Sully Island sent Barry Island Lifeboat racing to the scene last Saturday.

"On arrival, the three people on board were trying to 'bail out' the boat. When the lifeboat crew were able to inspect the boat, they found there was a partial equipment failure.

"This was rectified and the lifeboat was able to escort the boat towards Penarth marina," spokesman Gerry Adams reported.

Tomorrow, January 29, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution will be holding SOS Appeal Day, with special events using the SOS theme – eg Sip Our Soup, Savour Our Sausages, Sing Our Sea songs.

Mr Adams explained that money raised goes to operational costs, purchase of equipment and training of mostly volunteer crews.

"Last year, the RNLI had its busiest year with more than 9,000 launches of lifeboats and an increased presence on many more beaches in the UK through the RNLI Lifeguards.

"When I was a crew member for my first 18 years with the Barry Dock Lifeboat, we used to average about 12 launches a year, and although 2009 was fairly quiet for our station, we averaged 20-30 launches," he said.

"On Friday, we will have a special guest, Mr John Williams, who has raised money for the SOS Appeal. His grandson was rescued and successfully resuscitated by the Barry Dock Lifeboat crew last year."

News from St Cyres School

MENSA

TWO St Cyres pupils, Sam Berg and Marcus Hicks, have recently qualified to join Mensa.

Mensa was founded in England in 1946 by Roland Berrill, a barrister, and Dr Lance Ware, a scientist and lawyer. They had the idea of forming a society for bright people, with the only qualification for membership being a high IQ.

The society welcomes people from every walk of life whose IQ is in the top 2 per cent of the population. Sam and Marcus were among a group of able and talented year-10 pupils from St Cyres who took the Mensa IQ test, with all pupils proving to have an IQ in the top 10 per cent of the population.

Success

A SPECIAL assembly to mark the outstanding success of our year-10 pupils was called this week as the school received the news that 220 pupils from this year group had passed their Level 2 Key Skills qualification in ICT.

What is even more remarkable is that these pupils actually completed this work during year-9.

This Key Skills qualification is an important building block for the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification, which is a core part of our curriculum in year-10, and is studied alongside the usual GCSE qualifications.

Pupils are currently completing their 'Application of Number' portfolios and these will be entered later in the term.

St Cyres has a strong national reputation for outstanding success in the Advanced Diploma WBQ qualification, which is studied by students in our sixth form and the indications are, based on these results, that pupils will enjoy the same levels of success in this Intermediate Diploma.

The school wishes to congratulate all pupils who received this qualification and we look forward to hearing news of further success from this year group.

Vale AM's Welsh practice!

VALE AM, Jane Hutt, had a chance to "practise my Welsh" when she welcomed the year-6 pupils from Ysgol Gwaun y Nant to the Senedd.

"It was lovely to meet the Ysgol Gwaun y Nant pupils and to answer their questions, as well as telling them about my job. I was able to practise my Welsh and ask them questions about their school council."

Organisation 'Lites' up youngsters' lives!

Charity helps Ty Hafan with children's high-tech entertainment treat...

CHILDREN at Ty Hafan have been given a 'state-of-the-art' entertainment package from a national charity.

At a recent special celebration, the technology charity Lifelites officially handed over a fully managed package of the latest home technologies for the children and young people at Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

This is the third upgrade from Lifelites for the families who use the hospice. Now they can play the games with fabulous new HD wide screens, and the computer equipment comes with adaptations such as touch screens and special mice.

This will enable all the children and young people, whatever their abilities, to continue their studies and talk to their friends and teachers; and new digital and video cameras also help to make a lasting record of the special time they spend together at the hospice.

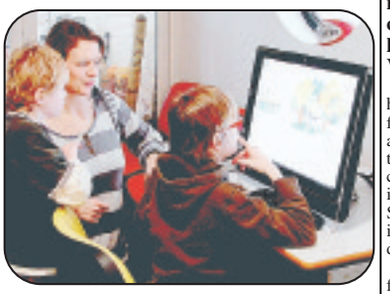
The equipment will complement the 'home-from-home' atmosphere the hospice creates. All this is provided with managed internet to keep the children and young people safe while they surf.

Lifelites is also supplying all of the telecoms and Sky connections free of charge, and will maintain the equipment along the way, meaning that the hospice's own funds and care staff activities can remain concentrated on delivering care for the children and young people, and support for their families.

Jayne Saunders, director of care at Ty Hafan said: "The computers and equipment will be extremely popular with the children and young people using the hospice, providing hours of enjoyment, interaction and fun (not to mention a welcome distraction for many of the parents). We would like to sincerely thank Lifelites for their ongoing support.

"We are delighted to be able to provide this package for Ty Hafan," said Simone Enefer-Doy, chief executive of Lifelites.

"We know from the care staff and parents what a difference it makes to the children and young people to be able to use the equipment using the special adaptations and software we provide, and how it adds to their enjoyment of the time they spend at the hospice."



Ty Hafan hospice care worker Mags Butler, with brothers Sam and Michael Gooding, enjoying the new equipment.

Torchlight walk for Haiti victims

MEMBERS of St Baruc's Church are inviting people in Barry to join them on a torchlight walk to raise money for those in need after the earthquake in Haiti.

The fundraising event has been organised by St Baruc's Church, Barry Island, and will take place on Friday, February 12 at 7pm.

Walkers are asked to carry a torch, and to wear an item of high visibility clothing.

An organiser said: "The theme is to bring some light into the lives of the people in despair in Haiti. The walk will start at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, and go around the garden suburb area, returning to All Saints.

"It will be three miles long, but with an option to do just two."

She continued: "Donations may be brought on the night, or taken to Island Leisure Family Amusement Centre on the promenade under the western shelter, Barry Island, on the weekends.

"They can also be taken to St Baruc's Church, or All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry on Sunday mornings."

All money collected will be paid to Christian Aid via the Parish of Barry account.

COUNCIL LAUNCHES A NEW HELPLINE IN BID TO FIGHT HATE CRIME

A NEW helpline for people to report incidents of hate crime has been launched by the Vale Council.

The confidential helpline is among the first in Wales. It will act as a valuable channel for the council, working closely with local equality organisations and South Wales Police, to identify and tackle incidents.

A hate crime is classified as either a physical or verbal attack motivated by the victim's race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

To mark the launch, local organisations including Stonewall Cymru, Show Racism the Red Card, South Wales Police, Cardiff & Vale Coalition of Disabled People, Race Equality First, Atal y Fro and the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services joined council officers, members and Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams at the Mayor's Parlour. Vale council leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, said: "Even though more hate crime incidents are being reported in our area, there's still a long way to go. This helpline will provide a valuable method of communication for all of those affected by this type of crime."

Supported by a 'report a hate crime' function available on the council's website, the new helpline will allow victims, or those who are witness to a crime, to report details to the council. The service is entirely confidential and callers have the option to remain anonymous.

Alicja Zalesinska, of Race Equality First, said: "It's very important that helplines like this exist, especially for those who are afraid to speak up if not encouraged, so that there's always someone out there to help."

Robert Goddard, of Stonewall Cymru, agreed: "This is a really important initiative and this launch shows the Vale's commitment to dealing with the issue of hate crime – that it's being taken seriously and dealt with seriously."

If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of a hate crime, make sure it's reported. Call 01446 700111 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/reporthatecrime to fill in an incident form.

Representatives of local equality organisations met with council officers, members and Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams to celebrate the launch of the new 'Report a Hate Crime' helpline.

Plan for an 'active Wales'

Heritage minister Alun Ffred Jones and Wales's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Jewell with a copy of the new action plan.

THE Heritage Minister, Alun Ffred Jones, and Wales' Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tony Jewell, have set out plans to get the nation more physically active.

'Creating an Active Wales' sets out the steps the Welsh Assembly Government will take, with partners, to achieve an active, healthy Wales.

The plan focuses on four aims: to develop an environment that makes it easier for people to choose to be more physically active; to support young people to live active lives, and become active adults; to encourage more adults to be more active; and to increase participation in sport.

Alun Ffred Jones said: "The actions in Creating an Active Wales seek to support people who are already physically active and provide encouragement for those who are not."

Dr Tony Jewell, the Chief Medical Officer added: "The health benefits of regular exercise are well-known, and we want people of all ages, right throughout Wales, to become more active."

Can you give Scooby a home?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

THIS WEEK: Scooby is a cross-breed, 2-5 years old, described by a spokeswoman as a bright and lively boy with a friendly and outgoing nature.

"He is very sweet, affectionate and playful with people. He has been in the centre since February 2009 and needs a home as soon as possible as he is getting quite stressed in the kennel environment.

"He is very under-socialised around other dogs and he will need help to develop his canine social skills, once settled and less stressed in a home.

"He's highly trainable; he just needs to have his energy channelled in the right direction."

SCOOBY.

Type of home needed: He is suitable with children 11 years and over who are used to dogs.

"His new owners will need to be prepared to continue his socialising with other dogs. He'll suit someone who has owned and trained a large dog before", she added

Breast cancer support group

THE voluntary organisation LIFT (Life Is For Today) is a self-help group for those affected by breast cancer which offers support and friendship to people living in the Vale.

The next LIFT group meetings will be in Cowbridge on Wednesday, February 3 between 10am-1pm and Wednesday, February 17 between 2pm-4pm.

New members welcome. Contact Hilary on 01446 749756, or Anne on 01446 772843 for further information.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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The Beech Tree Inn at Culverhouse Cross

A New Beginning…

SNUGLY tucked away right next door to the ITV Wales Television Centre at Culverhouse Cross lies one of the Vale's best kept secrets of recent months.

Since its opening at the beginning of October, The Beech Tree Inn – a stunning 18th Century barn conversion set in an acre of grounds with private parking for 50 cars – has already developed a dedicated following and a reputation for being one of the finest fish and seafood restaurants in the area.

The owner, ex-Barry schoolboy and former racing driver, Anthony Armelin, explains the circumstances surrounding the new project: "I was abroad on holiday at the time when I received a text from one of my former employees saying " Sorry to hear the news about Gilby's". I thought, hang on a second, what news?"

Mr Armelin, who bought the land in 1996, opened the hugely successful Gilby's Restaurant in 1997 and ran it as chef/proprietor for 10 heady years. He said: "I sold Gilby's in June 2007 but, unfortunately, the company I sold it to was unable to survive the recession and, after a classic moonlight flit, went into liquidation leaving me in something of a quandary – empty properties simply don't pay the bills!"

A decision was soon taken with five of his most loyal and trusted staff from the old Gilby's days to open up again as a brand new venture - and they haven't looked back since.

> "The Beech Tree Inn is a great fish restaurant. There's everything, from prawn cocktail and fish and chips to caviar, lobster and dover sole. They even have a fantastic selection of meat, including the very best pedigree Welsh Black steaks."

The restaurant and kitchen have undergone a major refurbishment with a stunning use of mirrors in the dining-room; cream walls, beech tables and soft leather seating help to create a light and airy ambience. The new look is a striking combination of traditional charm and comfort with a chic and modern feel.

Service is friendly and informal, the management making a priority of employing "genuine, happy, smiley faces to train as waiting staff." "We had a lot of fun with that ad" Arlene Mason explained. "We have a young, enthusiastic team that we've trained in-house, ourselves. They're a great bunch and they all genuinely love what they're doing." And it shows.

Restaurant manager Deb King with her front of house management team Teresa Goodwin, Louise McShane and Arlene Mason.

And so to food. Dining at The Beech Tree Inn is very much a sensory experience. From the moment you walk through the door, you are totally seduced by the sights, sounds and smells of a real open kitchen – fiery flambés, lots of whisking and chopping and generous whiffs of garlic and fresh herbs. It's colourful, vibrant and alive! The kitchen, under the guidance of joint head chefs Rob Sharp and Mike Jones, sources the very best produce available from suppliers right across the UK. "We try to cater for every taste, but the emphasis is firmly on buying the freshest produce and cooking it with as little fuss as possible."

Live shellfish arrives in the kitchen daily and, along with lobsters, oysters and mussels there is a superb selection of fresh fish beautifully displayed on crushed ice including dover sole, lemon sole, sea bass, monkfish and hake. Meat lovers will also be pleasantly surprised by a mouth-watering choice of staples, such as calf's liver and bacon, venison, poultry, duck, rack of lamb and the finest pedigree Welsh Black steaks from farms all over Wales. There's even an authentic Italian selection, including pasta and risotto, and a tempting vegetarian option is always available. With soup of the day at £3.75 and main courses starting at £7.95, the menu really must be seen to be believed!

And, of course, you simply daren't leave without sampling one of their classic home-made desserts, such as glazed tarte au citron, a huge fresh fruit pavlova with soft marshmallow meringue, a sensational hot chocolate fondant straight from the oven and their, now famous, exceptional vanilla crème brûlée. All desserts are priced at a very reasonable £4.95.

> "I'm delighted to have Deb King on board as Restaurant Manager. For many years Deb was one half of the highly-acclaimed Woods Bistro in Talbot Green, a gastronomic mecca for foodies everywhere. Between us, we have been fortunate enough to have won almost every award available."
>
> *Anthony Armelin*

Mr Armelin firmly believes consumer confidence in a product is all-important for success and is justifiably proud of the industry recognition that he, and Deb King, have achieved over the years. Some of the awards are: AA Restaurant of the Year for Wales, The Red Book Bistro of the Year, 2 AA Rosettes, entry into the Which? Good Food Guide and the highly coveted Michelin Bib Gourmand Award on numerous occasions.

He said, "I really do think our track record reassures guests that we genuinely care and that we'll always do our very best to provide a fantastic dining experience – each and every time."

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Barry College - Celebrating half a century at the heart of the Vale.

Barry College is celebrating 50 years of its life and work at the heart of the community in the Vale. Each month in the Gem, Barry College will be looking back over the last 50 years – with memories and photographs from past students, staff and local residents. A dedicated website www.barry.ac.uk/50 includes even more. To contribute memories, photographs or register as a past student or staff member, go to the website or contact us
email: 50years@barry.ac.uk or tel: 01446 725015

Nicola Brewster, the daughter of the founding Principal of Barry College, the late Arnold James, recently visited the College to meet with current Principal Paul Halstead. Appointed as Principal in 1959, Arnold James was committed to establishing a successful FE College for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan. In the first year of his appointment he and the small group of original staff decided upon the curriculum to be taught, recruited staff and students, and even decided on the first logo for the College.

At this time, Nicola, then a young child, recalls staff meetings being held in her front room on Sunday mornings. Nicola recalls the decision on the first College logo "there was much debate about this – it was eventually based on the Blue Peter 'ship', to emphasise Barry as a port town. The College added an extra sail for copy write purposes!" After all the planning, Nicola proudly remembers attending the official opening of the College [pictured below with her father, mother Elvis James and representatives from the Vale].

During his long career with the College until his retirement in 1985, Arnold James, alongside colleagues, notably Vice Principal and close friend John Cooper, saw the College develop significantly. New courses and departments were established. Close partnerships with industry were forged, including regular breakfasts for local employers. Student numbers increased from less than a hundred to a few thousand annually, students coming from South East Wales and across the world via partnerships with countries including Venezuela and Iran. Even the College site grew with a series of extensions and new buildings to accommodate the growth.

During his time as Principal, Arnold James was very well respected. Known to many colleagues as Jim, Arnold James had a firm but very fair approach. He had high standards and a drive to ensure the College and students achieved – an approach that benefited all. Above all he was caring and family orientated and encouraged staff to take the same approach. Nicola recalls her mother teaching at the College, and her, and later on her children, Arnold's grandchildren visiting the College with him. Coincidently, Nicola remembered playing table tennis as a child in the meeting room she met the Principal, which used to be the student common room.

Nicola recalls the solid bronze bust of being made of her father by renowned sculptor Bob Thomas, who also created the statue of Aneurian Bevan in Queen Street, Cardiff. Arnold James was very proud to sit for Bob, who was also a lecturer at the College for many years. The bust still resides in the main reception of the Colcot Road site. The College wish to thank Nicola for taking the time to visit from her home in South West England, during their 50 year anniversary, to share the photographs, documents and her own memories of her fathers time as Principal of Barry College.

The founding Principal of Barry College, Arnold James

Nicola as a child at the official opening of Barry College.

Nicola and Principal, Paul Halstead, recently looked though her photos of when her father, Arnold James, was Principal.

Do you have a special memory or story about Barry College?
Do you have any photographs of Barry College taken over the years?

Whether a past student, member of staff, friend of the College or local resident – we all share in the College's heritage.

All those who contribute photographs or written memories will receive a thank you letter and commemorative gift. The website www.barry.ac.uk/50 also includes details of planned activities and events through the academic year to allow all who wish to participate in celebrations the opportunity to do so.

Barry College will assume the consent of all those who appear in any photographs and written statements contributed relating to the college and its 50th celebrations, for use on the Barry College website, marketing materials and related media coverage. By contributing images/statements, you are agreeing to grant Barry College a royalty free licence to publish, edit and use such materials for the purposes stated above.

Vale carers are praised by AM

Jane Hutt (centre) offers her congratulations to the care workers.

VALE AM Jane Hutt, visited the 'All Care' offices in Holton Road, Barry, to congratulate Ann Hopkins and Emma James on their awards at the Care Wales Awards ceremony, organised by Care Forum Wales.

Jane Hutt AM said: " It was great to meet Ann Hopkins, who won the gold supported living care practitioner award, and Emma James, who won the bronze leadership and management award, to congratulate them on their skills and dedication to caring services in the Vale.

"I was particularly pleased to have the chance to thank the carers for their outstanding care during the poor weather conditions.

"They went out of their way to get to work to care for people, despite the snow."

Local RNLI crews have a busy year

THE latest figures released by the RNLI charity have revealed that, at the eight lifeboat stations between Penarth and Burry Port, the number of people rescued has risen from 245 in 2008 to 311 in 2009.

With the exception of 2006, when the long hot summer led to a stark rise in rescues, 2009 was the second busiest in the west over the last 10 years. Penarth were the second busiest rescuers in Wales, bringing 85 people safely ashore in 2009 – compared with 44 in 2008.

It was also a busy period for RNLI volunteers at Porthcawl where launches increased by nearly 40 per cent, and the number of people rescued rose from 26 in 2008 to 47 in 2009.

The number of lifeboat launches at Port Talbot, Atlantic College and Burry Port also increased, meaning that the RNLI is grateful for donations that can be spent on its services.

Wendy Reason, RNLI fundraising and communications manager in the west says:

"In a year when many families and companies are experiencing hardship, we have been astounded by the response from supporters to our national fundraising day."

To take part in RNLI SOS Day, and for inspiring fundraising ideas, or to simply make a donation, log on to www.rnli.org.uk/sos or call 0845 121 4999.

Rotary members get curried away!

ABOVE: Left to right – Rotarian John Edmounds (owner of St Andrew Golf Club), vice-president Dennis O'Shea, Rotarian David Williams and Mrs Williams.

RECENTLY, the members of Dinas Powys Rotary Club were joined at the St Andrews Major Golf Club by wives and partners for a special curry night.

There were many different curries available from the expert in-house chef, which everyone enjoyed, and a number of members went back for back for seconds and thirds!

Today (Thursday) at the village Parish Hall, the club will be holding its annual inauguration celebration dinner, with special guests and entertainment.

Colin Ll Jones

Pupils welcomed elderly guests

MEMBERS of The Wednesday Hour at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major, were invited recently by the staff of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School for lunch and a concert given by the pupils.

Twenty-five of us arrived to a very warm welcome by both staff and pupils.

After a delicious lunch of sandwiches and homemade cakes, the pupils entertained us with an excellent concert.

We all went home with an amazing hamper full of 'goodies', the contents of which were collected by the pupils themselves.

Their manners were impeccable and we were very well looked after.

I would like to thank the staff and pupils of the school for their attention to detail and for making us so welcome.

The Wednesday Hour involves a group of people over 60 who meet every Wednesday afternoon between 2pm-3.30pm in the hall of Bethel Baptist Church, for a relaxing afternoon of entertainment.

If anyone would like to join us, please telephone Frances on 01446 794005 for further information.

Francis Adney, Llantwit Major

Vale Dyspraxia Support Group

THE next monthly meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, February 1, in Barry Hospital, Colcot Road, Barry, at 7.30pm.

The group provides support for children with dyspraxia and their families. It is liaising with education authorities and is running a laptop project to support pupils with dyspraxia.

Families (both parents and children) of young people with dyspraxia and related conditions (dyslexia, ADHD, Aspergers) are welcome.

Latest roadworks report

Boverton Road junction with Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major – temporary traffic control. The work is ongoing.

Weston Square tunnel, Cardiff Road, Barry – road closure ongoing.

Pontypridd Street, junction with Mount Pleasant – footway restriction in place ongoing.

Pill Street/Dock Street, Penarth – temporary traffic control.

Broadway, Cowbridge – re-surfacing works with temporary traffic control.

High Street, Cowbridge (outside Nat West Bank) – temporary traffic control.

Cowbridge by-pass viaduct – temporary speed limit.

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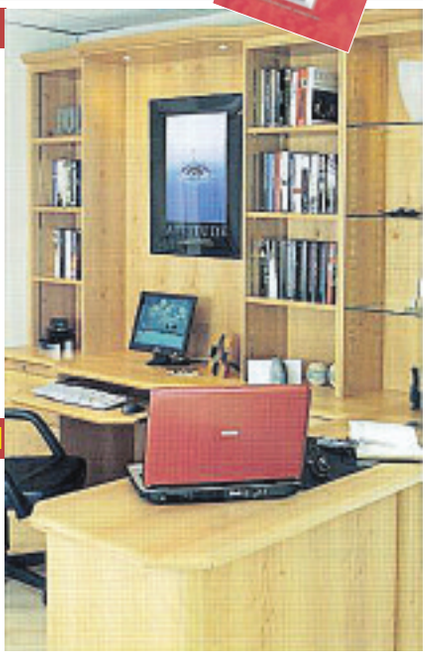

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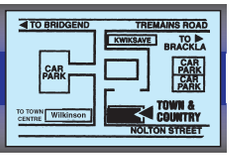

NEWS FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Students study myths around domestic abuse

YEAR-12 students at Barry Comprehensive School focused on a challenging project during their first term of sixth form – domestic abuse.

Students have challenged the myths and stereotypes around issues of domestic abuse, with the aims of breaking the cycle and creating healthier, happier relationships.

A school spokesman said: "There has been a real focus on emotional intelligence and developing a range of strategies for understanding feelings."

The project culminated with the launch of 'Atal y Fro'. The organisation (formerly known as Vale Women's Aid) aims to support families, especially focusing on children.

Students from Barry Comprehensive School were invited to this high profile launch and asked to perform a piece of drama to reflect the citizenship focus at the school.

The students, in a very short period of time, improvised a short play focusing on domestic abuse.

They chose to challenge the stereotype by featuring a male character as the victim of the abuse and the impact of family violence, although the audience only gradually sees this; in this way the drama also challenged our own stereotypes.

Kay Quinn (director), Sarah and Roisin with some of the students and Jennifer Ford, head of sixth form, Karen Walters, head of the creative arts faculty and student teachers Miss Cottam and Mr Morgan.

This piece of drama was accompanied by live music and the overall effect was extremely powerful.

The spokesman said: "Many thanks to Sarah Duddridge and Roisin Davies, members of the Atal y Fro Team, who ran the project over nine weeks for a large group of students.

Staff and students gained a great deal from the workshops.

"We would also like to thank Kay Quinn (director) Sarah and Roisin, for donating two personalised framed photographs to the school.

The group also took the trouble to come to the school, thanking the students for their work and commitment."

School's £1,000 donation for the Welsh Guards

BARRY Comprehensive School recently welcomed Captain Darren Pridmore of the Welsh Guards to meet students who attend the Military Preparation College in Cardiff, and he addressed all year-7 pupils.

The school had raised £1,000 in support of Welsh Guards injured in Afghanistan.

The school were particularly concerned to help Dale Leach, a former student of the school, who was seriously injured by a roadside bomb while travelling in Helman Province.

Captain Pridmore explained his extremely demanding role of supporting soldiers and their families who had been injured while on duty. He promised to pass on the school's best wishes to Dale when he next saw him.

Captain Pridmore with Barry Comprehensive School representatives Ben, Anthony and Elliot.

Vale nursery school wins a special award for understanding disability

A VALE school has been honoured at an annual awards ceremony.

Bute Cottage Nursery in Penarth was singled out in the schools' category of the 16th 'Understanding Disability' awards organised by the Cardiff and Vale Parents' Federation.

The awards celebrate the promotion by individuals, schools, groups/organisations and employers of positive attitudes towards people with learning disabilities.

Bute Cottage was represented at the ceremony by learning support assistant Julie Corbett and former pupil Thomas, and headteacher Ceri Hoffrock, said: "Staff at Bute Cottage Nursery were delighted to receive this recognition of the support and guidance they provide for the children in their care.

"It is very much a tribute to everyone associated with Bute Cottage, including the governing body and the wider community, who work very hard to ensure that children with disabilities thrive in our fully inclusive environment."

Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, who presented the award to Julie and Thomas, said: "This annual awards ceremony highlights outstanding efforts to involve people with learning disabilities in everyday life. I was thrilled in my civic role to be able to honour Bute Cottage Nursery."

On behalf of Bute Cottage Nursery School, former pupil Thomas and learning support assistant Julie Corbett receive the Understanding Disability Award from Vale of Glamorgan Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams.

Lecturers battle to awards ceremony

THREE engineering lecturers at Bridgend College and Robert Jones, head of school, engineering, battled through the cold and snow drifts to make their way to the Royal Society in London on January 8 for Innovisions 2010, New Engineering Foundation Awards and Annual Conference 2010.

The event was hosted by Maggie Philbin, radio and television presenter, and David Kidney MP, Minister for Energy and Climate Change.

The New Engineering Foundation is a grant-awarding charity that promotes the development of vocational education in science, engineering and technology.

The Industrial Fellowship Scheme provides bursaries for further education lecturers to spend time in local companies or research organisations in support of their professional development, enhancing classroom learning, and encouraging knowledge transfer within the local business community.

The annual awards ceremony recognises the dedication of both teachers and employers in pursuit of these goals.

Carl Bickle, Mike Donnelly and Tony James have each undertaken a three-week industrial placement that has allowed them to enhance and update skills in modern industrial processes, which can be developed into the learning activities to ensure topics are current and meet the needs of industry.

These new and enhanced skills will also help ensure our training and assessment processes provide students with the skills needed to succeed.

Carl Bickle has been working at Corus Strip Products in Port Talbot, which will allow us to develop new apprenticeship routes to fulfil future plant requirements in Process Control and High Voltage systems.

Mike Donnelly has spent three weeks in RWE npower's Aberthaw Power Station, enabling us to meet the needs of the energy sector.

Tony James has enjoyed three weeks in the Ford Engine Plant in Bridgend to gain a working knowledge of new engine manufacturing processes at this advanced manufacturing facility.

All agreed that the industrial placement scheme has enhanced and updated their skills, and provided an excellent working knowledge of these employers.

RWE npower apprentices work on live Process Flow Control System that they built in just three weeks at Bridgend College – left to right: David Brooks, Samuel James, Justin Miles.

Vale housing support box goes to AM

Rene Gannon, vice-chairperson, Jane Hutt AM and Winnie Davies, executive member.

RENE GANNON, the vice-chairperson of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum, and Winnie Davies (executive member) recently met the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, to hand over the New Year box containing leaflets and letters on behalf of people using housing support.

Winnie Davies told The GEM: "We delivered the box from Cymorth Cymru; this is a good way to keep our AM informed."

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Our extra-curricular programme is impressive with pupils participating in Make Your Mark Challenge, Young Enterprise, Chemistry Olympiad, and Duke Of Edinburgh – this year we have 12 pupils working towards their Gold Award.

Scholarship opportunities at St Clare's School

A limited number of scholarship places will be available for entry into the academic year commencing September 2010. Awards are offered in academic and non - academic subjects, providing bright and talented children the opportunity to join a school that will challenge them and encourage them to reach their full potential.

If education matters to you, and you feel that your child could benefit from a setting which offers small class sizes and where the range of subjects on offer will support your child's own aspirations, then contact us for an information pack, or visit our website.

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GO-AHEAD GIVEN FOR DRAMATIC CHANGES AT THE CARDIFF AIRPORT

A SERIES of investment decisions, planned despite the economic downturn, are to go ahead at Cardiff Airport.

The airport at Rhoose has plans to upgrade its terminal building, and work is intended to start late this year.

There will also be work on a new radar system.

The development will include an extension to the front of the terminal, linking the arrivals and departures halls into one large common area, providing new food and retail services.

As part of the work, the first floor of the terminal will become 'airside' as the security control point to access the departures lounge is relocated to the first floor, above the existing arrivals hall and accessed through the new extension.

The approach area in front of the terminal building will also be redesigned and landscaped.

The changes are in line with more stringent security regulations.

Cardiff Airport's managing director, Patrick Duffy, said: "Our intention is to enhance and expand the airport terminal, and present a modern statement for the region and increase our commercial activities.

"However, we are seeking to do this during a time where recession has hit air traffic hard, challenging any business case for investing in airport development.

"We are demonstrating our commitment at Cardiff Airport, despite market conditions, and we call on others – particularly the Welsh Assembly Government, to now do their bit.

"The Welsh public need to realise that this development of the terminal itself does not actually increase the demand for airlines operating in south Wales.

"It does not create new routes and it does not create new tourism. These issues have to be tackled as part of a regional plan.

"Cardiff Airport has suggested solutions to some of these issues and trusts that government agencies will make their contribution as other regions of the UK have done so for many years".

Conservative AM Andrew RT Davies put the investment at £15 million, with £5million allocated specifically to the terminal redesign plans.

He said: "I welcome and support the new investment into Cardiff Airport's terminal building and I am excited to hear that there will be new facilities at the terminal.

"I am sure this news will be welcomed across the Vale.

"However, the Welsh Assembly Government now needs to develop a strong working relationship with Cardiff Airport to establish new routes.

"I am disappointed to see that the Assembly continues to waste money on its Cardiff – Anglesey route, which limits the funding available to promote transatlantic routes from Cardiff."

Cardiff Airport has also been working on a project to erect a new air traffic control radar tower for the past 18 months.

The new, state-of-the-art equipment is being repositioned, in order to comply more fully with the Civil Aviation Authority's requirements.

Following a consultation on different sites at the airfield, the new radar will be erected on the south side, adjacent to the fire training ground.

Ground level works have been under way for several weeks, and a crane should now be on site to erect the 20-metre tower.

The work should be completed by tomorrow (Friday) weather permitting.

The next step of the project will be to add the radar head on top of the tower, which will happen over the next few weeks.

The new system will be turning from May or June, in order for it to be tested.

The project will be completed by July when the new radar will be fully operational.

An airport spokeswoman said: "Cardiff Airport would like to invite members of the public to the next airport consultative committee meeting, to discuss any issues or concerns you may have regarding the new project.

The meeting will be held at the airport on Monday, February 15 at 6pm, (visit www.tbicardiffairport.com for more information).

LEFT: An upgrade will change the face of Cardiff Airport.

ABOVE: The concourse leading to the retail units.
BELOW: An artist's impression looking across to the restaurant.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS UPDATE

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, January 19.

In first place were Kay Dyer and Noelle Bond with 63.89 per cent.

In second were Huw Thomas and Celia Thomas (57.64), and in third were Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick, with 56.25.

Kay and Noelle also won on handicap

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information telephone 01446 733425.

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

'Proper snow' did not deter walkers

Break time at Tinkinswood

THE recent inclement weather has played havoc with planned walks and many had to be cancelled at short notice, which means many of the group's regular walkers are beginning to suffer with enforced cabin fever.

However, recently leader Rachel was joined by an all-female group in the shape of Marion, Liz, Lorraine and Sue, who were all kitted up in warm clothing and eager to get started.

Leaving the community hall at the rear of Tesco's on Port Road, they made their way through the estate to join the Highlight Trail, which passes through part of Brynhill Golf Club.

The narrow path that goes down through the wood was tricky in places and very slippery, but having ventured across the footbridge over the stream and into their first field, the adventure began.

Because the ground was covered in what we class as 'proper snow'– Rachel had planned a game of take-it-in-turns-to-put-your-footprint-in-the-snow, but what she had forgotten was that for three days previously to her walk, the schools had been closed.

Where there is snow, there are usually youngsters out enjoying it and the group found upon their journey that there wasn't one field that hadn't been trodden upon – still better luck next time!

The Highlight Trail is also part of Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail that was opened in 2001, and the group followed this down through Dyffryn to make their way behind Dyffryn Gardens to the Long Cairn at Tinkinswood.

With bracing air and clear blue skies, the countryside, still covered in a coat of white snow, was looking breathtakingly beautiful and all agreed they were glad to be out enjoying the winter sunshine and having fun.

Tinkinswood was once a village, but all that marks the spot now is the Megalithic burial chamber built in 4,000BC.

Originally covered in a mound of soil, it measures 3.5-ft high, 300-ft long and 57-ft wide and is under the care of CADW.

The capstone supported by upright stones is thought to weigh 40-tons and would have taken at least 200 people to move it.

In 1914, when the chamber was excavated, 920 pieces of human bone (mostly all broken) were discovered, meaning that at least 40 people of both sexes had been buried there.

The boulders on the south side are said in folklore to be women turned to stone for dancing upon the Sabbath.

Tearing themselves away, they joined the road and walked south, passing Dyffryn Gardens where the leader had hoped to stop for coffee and cake, but thwarted because it was closed, due to the snow, and they carried on towards St Lythans.

Their return was made by way of New Wallace Farm and crossing the Brynhill valley, they went uphill to Little Brynhill Farm and emerged onto Port Road.

Here, they found the pavements still covered in compacted snow and ice which made them rather treacherous, but undaunted, they powered their way back past the fire station to their waiting cars for the journey home.

On January 30, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a six to seven mile moderate walk from the Brecon Mountain Centre. Contact Val H. on 029 2051 3274.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks.

Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walks, log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

The (AGM) show must go on!

ANIMALS know when to curl up and avoid the worse wintry conditions. On the other hand, about a dozen hardy souls braved the driving snow to attend the Annual General Meeting recently.

It couldn't have been the prospect of a closely fought election either!

So, in my postion of chairman I welcomed them warmly and after allowing a couple of minutes grace for any stragglers (none!) got on with the business of the meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated and were unanimously approved without amendment and no matters arising.

As there was no secretary, I gave a brief review of the last year. It was noted that attendance at meetings had increased and that no changes to the programme of talks had been required.

The Club Open Evening, as part of the Penarth Festival in July, had seen many more visitors from the public than before – including the Mayor.

I thanked the committee for their support, and noted special thanks for Jean Thomas and Ron Price who were standing down from the committee this year.

To be successful, any club needs the active participation by its members in all manner of small tasks.

Such helpfulness contributes toward the club's reputation as 'The Friendly Club'.

The treasurer's audited report for the year ended August 31, 2009 was also submitted.

The balance sheet indicated a healthy cash reserve and no increase in membership fee was necessary.

The meeting was advised that the hall rental had increased to acknowledge a much improved storage facility.

Nevertheless, there would be no increase in the annual membership fee and no increase in the meeting fees.

The report was adopted unanimously.

The committee now consists of:

Chairman: Howard Desmond; vice- chairman: Steve Viney; treasurer: *vacant*; secretary: *vacant*; auditor: Mrs Sue Seymour. Committee members: Mrs Rhona Boudier, Mike Finlay, Mike Jakob, Mrs. Eileen Younghusband.

I will continue to act as secretary and the committee will deal with the tasks required of the treasurer, if no volunteer is forthcoming.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed and everybody rapidly retreated to their respective firesides!

Visitors and new members always welcome.

For more information telephone 029 20708439.

Howard Desmond, chairman

Glamorgan GEM Food for Thought

AT YOUR SERVICE!

Coffee Zone makes a welcome entrance

THE Business Centre in Barry has announced the opening of an in-house café called The Coffee Zone.

The centre has made this new investment to provide an additional much-needed service for its clients.

However, it is already drawing in members of the public and other people from the Ty Verlon Estate, who are delighted to have somewhere providing food and hot drinks locally.

The Coffee Zone is being run by Dawn Lee and her daughter Paige. Dawn has more than 20 years' experience in the catering trade and is "very excited" to be providing the new service.

Coffee Zone is open from 8.30am-3.30pm Monday-Friday.

Contact Dawn on 01446 704428 for further details, or to place an order.

ABOVE: Dawn and Paige are ready to take your orders at The Coffee Zone!

Rotary's star young chefs in battle for the big prize!

RIGHT: Rotary clubs do their bit to promote excellence, and a popular example is the 'Young Chef' competition. Barry Rotary staged their competition recently, and it was won by Jordan Clarke (far right) with Sophie Thomas the runner-up. (See next week's GEM for a report).

Tiffin Rasoi's Haiti evening

A CHARITY night in aid of the Haiti earthquake victims is being held at Tiffin Rasoi this Sunday, January 31 from 5pm-11pm.

Tiffin Rasoi will donate 50 per cent of its proceeds to the Haiti appeal.

Tiffin Rasoi, 37 Holton Road, Barry, telephone 01446 743030/721100; www.tiffinrasoi.com

Healthy eating —Italian style!

LIGHT, tasty and using olive oil to its best advantage – that's the Italian way to healthy eating.

Now, olive oil specialist Filippo Berio, has put together some great Mediterranean dishes to put you on the right track!

Toasted mozzarella and tomato sandwich

Preparation time: 10 minutes, cooking time: 5-10 minutes (serves 2).

Two tomatoes sliced; four tbsp Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive oil; 1 tsp balsamic vinegar; a few shredded basil leaves; salt and freshly ground black pepper; four thick slices of bread; one clove garlic halved; 150g mozzarella cheese, sliced;

Step one: Place the tomatoes on a plate, sprinkle over 2 tbsp of the oil, the vinegar and basil. Season well and set aside.

Step two: Rub the garlic all over the slices of bread, then drizzle half the remaining oil over one side of the bread slices. Cook on a preheated griddle pan for 2 minutes or until toasted.

Step three: Place toasted side up on a board and top two slices with the tomatoes and sliced mozzarella. Place the remaining bread, toasted side down on the filling. Drizzle half the oil over and cook on the griddle for 2 minutes until toasted.

Step four: Drizzle the remaining oil on the untoasted side, turn over and cook for a further 2 minutes until the bread is golden brown and the cheese beginning to melt. Serve immediately.

Pan fried pork with Tuscan beans

Preparation time: 15 minutes (serves four). Cooking time: 1 hour

5 tbsp Filippo Berio Olive oil; 4 pork loin steaks, approx 150g (5oz) ea; 3 shallots, peeled and finely chopped; 1/2 red pepper, deseeded and finely chopped; 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped; 2 x 410g cans cannellini beans, drained; 150ml (1/4 pt) dry white wine; 300ml (1/2 pt) chicken or vegetable stock; 4 or 5 sage leaves, chopped;

Step one: Heat 2 tbsps of the olive oil in a large frying pan over medium/high heat, add the pork loin steaks and cook for about 12 minutes until deep golden brown on both sides, prop the loin steaks on the side of the pan so the edges brown during next step.

Step two: Add another tablespoon of oil to the pan and then the shallots, red pepper and garlic and cook over a medium heat for about five minutes until softened. Pour in the wine and bring to the boil.

Step three: Add the cannellini beans, stock and sage, place the pork chops among the beans, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes. Remove the lid and simmer a further 15 minutes or until the stock has become syrupy and the chops are tender.

Step four: Remove the lid; add the remaining olive oil. Season if desired and serve.

Finnegans runner-up in top UK-wide competition

Local chip shop hits the heights!

A LOCAL chippie is celebrating hitting the heights – after winning second prize in a national competition to find the best fish and chip shop in the UK.

Finnegans's Fish Bar was crowned the second best fish and chip shop in the UK at the national 'Fish & Chip Shop of the Year' competition 2009/2010, organised by Seafish.

The owners, Huw and Sarah Jones, were presented with the award, by TV chef Aldo Zilli, at a ceremony in the Riverbank Park Plaza Hotel in London last week.

Huw and Sarah have three branches, one in Broadlands, Bridgend, one in Porthcawl, and another in Port Talbot.

The Porthcawl branch claims Ruth Jones of *Gavin and Stacey* as a regular visitor, and Michael Sheen has also popped in!

Huw and Sarah were awarded second place after a rigorous judging process, which included a customer vote, taste tests, two intense rounds of shop inspections and a presentation to a panel of industry experts.

Shops are strictly judged not only on the quality of their fish and chips, but on all areas of the business including responsible seafood sourcing, customer service, food hygiene, staff training and community spirit.

Huw said: "We are over the moon to win the second spot. There are not many shops in Wales that can say they serve some of the best fish and chips in the UK.

"We'll keep improving the standards of our shop and, hopefully, we'll be back here next year to walk away with the top trophy.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to my staff and loyal customers who helped us reach this stage of the competition."

The winner was a Scottish-Italian fish restaurant, Atlantic Fast Food in Coatbridge, Glasgow, with the Great British Eatery in Birmingham coming in third place.

Aldo Zilli, compere of the competition and seafood restaurateur, said: "The high standards of our fish and chip shops rival the top restaurants in the country.

"The best shop owners work hard to deliver outstanding quality by using the finest ingredients and a responsible attitude to the sourcing of fish."

Nikki Hawkins, the competition project manager, said: "Despite the credit crunch, people still want to enjoy small luxuries.

"In fact, 183 million portions of fish and chips were sold last year alone. A national institution, fish and chips has survived the test of time and will be around for many years to come."

The national 'Fish & Chip Shop of the Year' competition has been run by Seafish for 22 years.

A Seafish spokeswoman said: "In that time, fish and chip shops have changed dramatically, with many now offering different varieties of fish such as pollack, coley, and hake.

"Modern frying methods and state of the art frying ranges also mean that fish and chips is one of the healthiest takeaway meals containing less salt, a third less calories and more than 40 per cent less fat than other takeaways."

Restaurants unite for Haiti appeal

A NUMBER of Vale restaurants made their contribution to the Haiti appeal last night (Wednesday) by donating 50 per cent of the evening's takings to the cause..

The GEM understands that the fundraising idea may be extended, and restaurants that do so will be displaying the Haiti Earthquake (Islamic Relief) poster.

Finnegans
Award Winning Fish & Chips
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VALENTINE'S DINNER
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and
MOTHERS DAY
Sunday, 14th March
Function room for parties of up to 55 people
☎01446 773943 - Popular choice!

Out and About with The GEM

Music in the Vale proves a stepping stone to stardom!

RECENTLY, Music in the Vale found itself represented both in the Gordon Theatre and on the Glanfa stage at the Wales Millennium Centre.

Leigh Rhiannon Coggins, a runner-up in the 2007 singing competition, was performing in the musical *Les Miserables* in the Gordon Theatre, and is also understudying *Cosette*.

Just prior to the matinee performance, Music in the Vale provided a full one-hour free concert to a very large and appreciative audience in the Glanfa foyer.

The finalists of Music in the Vale's 2009 annual competition enjoyed this first opportunity to perform to a large, enthusiastic audience.

These young musicians, with either classic, folk or music theatre pieces, all amazed the audience with their high standards of performance.

Music in the Vale is providing two similar opportunities for their finalists – Saturday, April 24 (1.15pm-2.15pm) and Sunday, June 27 (1pm-2pm).

For more information about Music in the Vale, visit the website musicinthevale.org.uk or telephone the secretary on 01446 771318.

Forum's new website

The Vale Older People's Strategy Forum has launched a new website.

The forum has a membership of more than 600 people aged 50+ that either live or work in the Vale, and the new website covers many areas of interest, including housing, transport, health, and age discrimination.

Jane Weldon, the website administrator, said: "There are many articles and helpful links, including how to find out if you are entitled to cold weather payments. Go to our website at www.vale-opf.org.uk"

Comedian really suffers for his art!

AWARD-WINNING comedian Rhod Gilbert paid a special visit to the Vale Council's visible services department recently, as part of his new series for BBC One Wales – *Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience* – which sees him step well and truly out of his comfort zone.

Over the course of his visit, Rhod took on jobs with the council's refuse team, spent the day at the civic amenity site and patrolled with the enforcement team, to find out just how difficult an average day can be.

At first, Rhod was tasked with becoming a bin man, meaning very early starts, lots of walking and having to face some rather unpleasant sights and smells along the way – something that Rhod admits he wasn't exactly relishing the thought of.

Things didn't get off to a great start, though, as Rhod turned up late for his first shift!

Older People's Forum hosts information day

A MORNING of refreshments, information and discussion is planned for Thursday, February 25, when the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum hosts an information and coffee morning in Barry.

The event will be held at Barry Library, King Square, between 10am-12pm and will provide an opportunity for the forum to recruit new members and provide guests with information on health and wellbeing.

There will be information stands offering advice on different topics such as Age Concern/Help the Aged welfare rights, advocacy and good neighbourhood scheme, TeleV personal security systems, Health through Warmth and much more.

Representatives from the forum will also be on hand to talk about work achieved so far.

The forum welcomes new members so long as they are aged over 50 and live or work in the Vale.

For further information, contact Nisha Shukla, participation and involvement officer, on 01446 704857 or email nshukla@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Councillor's plea for more allotment space

LOCAL councillor, Rob Curtis, has requested a report for the economy and environment scrutiny committee on how the Vale Council can supply more allotment space to meet public demand and help protect the environment.

He explained: "Owning and tending an allotment can have many benefits, including exercise, good wholesome healthy food and also help protect our environment in the process.

"The waiting list for allotments in the Vale has increased massively over the past couple of years.

"I believe the Vale Council should be doing its upmost to create new allotment space."

PACT meetings

CASTLELAND PACT public meeting will be held at The Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry on Monday, February 8, at 7pm.

BUTTRILLS PACT, The Phillip John Community Room, Barry Library, King Square, Wednesday, February 10, at 6.30pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, The Community First Office, Aberaeron Close, Barry, Tuesday, February 16, at 2pm.

ST BRIDES MAJOR PACT, St Brides Major Church Hall on Wednesday, February 3, at 6pm.

YSTRADOWEN Coffee & Chat, at The White Lion on Tuesday, February 9, at 11.30am.

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre on Tuesday, February 16, at 7pm.

LLANDOW/ EWENNY PACT, Ewenny Village Hall on Wednesday, February 17, at 7pm.

ST HILARY Coffee & Chat meeting, St Hilary Village Hall on Friday, February 19, at 11am.

SULLY PACT, the Jubilee Hall on Thursday, February 11, at 8pm.

Barry chef rejoins Welsh culinary team

BARRY chef Lee Jeynes is a key member of the Welsh National Culinary Team, as they prepare to compete on home soil, before flying to take on the best in the world in Asia this spring.

Lee Jeynes returns to the Welsh team for the Singapore competition.

The team has been invited to compete for the first time at the FHA Culinary Challenge in Singapore, hailed as Asia's most established culinary competition, from April 15-25.

Lee, originally from Barry, emigrated to live in Australia last year and is looking forward to meeting up again with his former team-mates.

The Welsh team warms up for the Singapore event by competing on home soil against Celtic cousins Scotland and Ireland in the Battle for the Dragon contest during the Welsh International Culinary championships at Coleg Llandrilo Cymru, Rhos-on-Sea from February 16-18.

HAITI APPEAL

A BRING & Buy sale is being held in Llandow Village Hall on Saturday, January 30, between 10am-2pm in aid of the Haiti earthquake appeal.

Helpers needed; telephone 01656 890737/890513/890532.

TABLE TOP

A TABLE top sale will be held in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, on Saturday, February 6 from 10am-12.30pm.

New and unused goods and bric-a-brac; entry 50p. Proceeds in aid of the restoration fund.

Tory AM's surgery

DAVID MELDING, the Conservative Assembly Member for South Wales Central region, will be holding an advice surgery tomorrow (Friday, January 29) at 29, High Street, Barry, between 10am-11.30am.

No appointments are necessary and all are welcome to attend.

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

For September 2010, state of the art facilities in all curriculum areas, including: Music, Drama, Design Technology, ICT and Science

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

An open evening for students considering taking their AS/A2 Level studies will be held in the Sixth Form on

Thursday, 4th February

between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm

Andrew RT Davies AM

Welsh Conservative Assembly Member for South Wales Central

If you would like to attend an advice surgery, please contact:

Tel: 02920 898523
Office: 29 High Street, Barry, CF62 9EA.

Next surgery: Friday 5th February, 10.30-11.30am

Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives

Website: www.andrewrtdavies.com
Email: andrewRT.davies@wales.gov.uk

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Vale of Glamorgan Council

Building Excellence Awards 2010

LABC CYMRU

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

BUILDERS and developers who use the building regulation service in the Vale will be attending the 'Building Awards' dinner organised through the Building Control Group of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

For the seventh year in succession, it will be held at the Best Western Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry on January 29.

Nominations for the awards are provided by the council's building control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to the completion of building work.

Colin Blick, Operational Manager for the Building Control Group at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, said: "This is the seventh successive year of the 'Building Awards', and we have great pleasure in providing recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high quality customer-orientated service.

"Building regulations now play a big part whenever we decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and the devolvement of the building regulations to the Welsh Assembly, reducing carbon emissions will be at the forefront of the legislation changes we will see in the coming years.

"Everyone has a part to play in conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions, as it impacts on us all, from householder to major developer. Changing the way we construct buildings to make them more sustainable will be a big ask for our developers.

"Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations requires a high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement.

"The 'Building Awards' demonstrate the many high quality construction projects undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Builders and developers are rarely recognised, and the awards have proved over the years that they are very gratefully received."

The Building Control Group is situated within the Planning and Transportation Division of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and its Head of Service Rob Thomas stated: "Development of any size increasingly has a major impact on the day to day lives of people who are undertaking building projects.

"Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying not only the customer's needs, but also statutory bodies. The Building Awards will help assist the builder and developer meet these needs, as well as giving them well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard".

Winners of the Vale of Glamorgan event will go forward to the LABC South Wales 'Building Awards' dinner, held at the Mecure Holland House Hotel, Cardiff on March 12, which will be hosted by television personality Jason Mohammed.

The ultimate achievement can be recognised at national level. The winners of the South Wales event will be nominated into the LABC National 'Building Awards', which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England, in London next October.

This year's award categories are: Extensions and Alterations • New Single Dwellings • Multiple Dwellings • Social Affordable Housing • Commercial Property

The Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards are kindly sponsored by

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2010

Category 1 - Nomination for Extensions & Alterations

The Old Vicarage, Pendoylan

Applicant: **Mr. G. Davies**

Contractor: **Martin Jones**

This extension to a substantial detached dwelling comprises a covered courtyard entrance, a large garage and fitness suite on ground level with a self-contained granny annexe at first floor level.

The topography of the site required significant ground-works and the construction of a large mass concrete block retaining wall for the garage element to be built into the adjacent ground. The garage opens up into the large terraced courtyard with an open air swimming pool.

The fitness suite also benefits from open access to the courtyard, whilst the granny annexe, situated above the garage area, is accessed from the rear garden level, and provides unobstructed views over the surrounding countryside.

The design of the fitness suite incorporates an oak framed roof construction which was replicated in the covered courtyard entrance. The attention to detail was reflected in all other areas of construction and finishes, and has resulted in a superb extension well worthy of nomination.

The contractor maintained regular contact with the Building Control Department to ensure all relevant elements of work were inspected prior to covering over.

Martyn Watts-Jones
Traditional Builder
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Proud to be nominated for his 'new build' in the Extensions & Alterations category for The Old Vicarage, Pendoylan
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COWBRIDGE CF71 7HE
Phone **01446 775240**
Mobile **07702 150138**

Ty Cwar, Penylan Rd, St Brides Major

Applicant: **Mr. & Mrs. Dalton**

Agent: **Barry Mayled**

Contractor: **Gwyn G. Jones & Sons Ltd**

The project consisted of a two storey extension and a first floor extension including new dormer roof extensions, built in traditional construction to match existing elevations, incorporating high levels of thermal and acoustic insulation.

The roof construction is sympathetic to the character and enhancement of the existing building.

The first floor living room was extended to include a balcony, which affords superb views over open countryside.

The first floor extension has two further bedrooms with an adjacent bathroom.

The work involved significant steelwork design/alterations. The building works were exceptionally well managed with excellent quality control regarding construction and Health and Safety procedures.

The excellent standards of design, workmanship, including finishes, make this a quality family home.

Gwyn G Jones & Sons Ltd
Building, Heating
& Plumbing Contractors
New Build, Extensions & Refurbishments
01446 773011
Mob: 07976 299445
Coach House, Pentre Meyrick,
Cowbridge, South Glamorgan CF71 7RN

Penylan House, Aberthin

Applicant: **Mr. R. Wood**

Agent: **Mr. Gwyn Davies**

Contractor: **Mr. Ron Stockwell**

This project involved the construction of a single storey rear elevation extension to an existing dwelling, providing a large kitchen/dining area with a balcony roof.

As the extension was built into a steep bank, large quantities of excavated material were removed and this being a confined site, the contractor worked sympathetically with the neighbours, ensuring minimum disruption.

Reinforced concrete foundations and retaining wall construction were provided, including tanking as a barrier against ingress of moisture to the inside of the building.

Land drainage was also provided externally to the perimeter/retaining wall construction, so as to relieve any possible build-up of water pressure.

The construction involved the use of proprietary shuttering and careful fixing and setting up of the steel reinforcement.

The roof of the extension provides a balcony area which has been tastefully paved over and affords splendid views over a mature garden. The extension matches the existing house, enhancing the appearance, coupled with high standards of workmanship.

Due to the limited access to the site, the concrete was pumped from the adjacent access/driveway with minimum disruption to neighbours, by applying Health & Safety site management.

10 Cornerswell Place, Penarth

Applicant: **Mr. John Page**

Contractor: **T. W. Boagey**

The works comprise a single-storey ground floor extension, with part mono pitch and part lean-to roof. In the front section, the extension provides a breakfast room with vaulted ceiling, adjacent to the kitchen. The breakfast room has good daylight provision from a roof light and front glazed screen.

Steel beams, with fire protection, were inserted to structural engineer's design in a new opening between the existing kitchen and the new breakfast room. The rear section of the extension incorporates a very practical hobby room opening out onto the garden.

Submitted as a Building Notice, this project was executed by a very experienced father and son building team. The rainwater was dealt with by the inclusion of a modern 'crate' soakaway system, due to the limited permeability of the ground.

The builder, applicant and Building Control officer worked in close consultation throughout the project, which exemplifies the ethos of working in partnership.

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2010

Category 1 - Nomination for Extensions & Alterations

The Cottage, Westgate, Cowbridge

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NOMINEE - BUILDING AWARDS 2010

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01446 781494 07970 695042

Applicant/Agent: **Keith J. Evans**

Contractor: **Toutt Builders**

The scheme involved the complete renovation of the property, including the taking down and rebuilding of principle load bearing walls and floors in the existing structure, which were found to be defective during construction.

The completed property, which was designed by the owner/architect, involved the construction of a new two storey extension incorporating an integral garage with bedroom over, and the construction of a new kitchen, utility room and conservatory.

Certain aspects of the work were difficult, due to the defective existing structure. The Building contractor overcame the difficulties and achieved a building which displays high standards of workmanship, complemented by the internal fittings and fixtures.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Building Excellence Awards 2010

Category 2 - Nomination for New Single Dwellings

Former Vale Garage, St Mary Church

Applicant: **Mr. Len Richards, Vivard Ltd., Llantwit Major**

Contractor: **Steve Lee Builders, Llantwit Major**

The location of the dwelling, is in a rural setting, on the site of former garage premises. The builder therefore had to undertakeremedial ground works prior to construction commencing.

The construction incorporates many architectural features and is complemented by a builder who is meticulous with regard to craftsmanship and detail.

The dwelling comprises a ground floor conservatory, four bedrooms, two with ensuite bathrooms and one family bathroom.

All fittings fixtures and decoration are to a high standard and of a tasteful design.

The dwelling also includes a detached double garage.

The dwelling is of a traditional construction embracing high levels of insulation, built to meet today's high thermal insulation standards. The energy assessment and air test confirmed that this house had higher results than any other previously checked.

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10 Clive Place, Penarth

Applicant/
Contractor: **Goldsworthy Homes Ltd**

This new dwelling is set at the end of an established terrace of dwellings within the Penarth Conservation Area. As such, its design was given considerable consideration and scrutiny, to ensure it blended in with surrounding buildings.

The three-storey property provides accommodation of five bedrooms, en-suite and family bathrooms, living room and large kitchen/dining room. Its timber framed construction with substantial insulation levels produced an energy efficient building, without resorting to costly energy saving methods, such as solar panels or photo-voltaic cells.

The external finishes of coursed stonework with brickwork banding, natural slate roof, and sliding sash windows have achieved an appearance well suited to its location. The high standard of finish and workmanship was evident throughout the build process.

A good working relationship between builder and the Building Control Section was also maintained during the contract period so that only a few minor issues had to be resolved at the completion stage.

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Category 3 - Nomination for Multiple Dwellings

Former Grammar School, Church Street, Cowbridge

Applicant/Developer: **Mr D.M. Mathias, Centre Great Limited**

Agent: **Davies Sutton Architects of Cardiff**

This Grade II* Listed Building has been elegantly converted into luxurious apartments.

Previously under the governorship of Jesus College, Oxford, the Grammar School was rebuilt between 1847 and 1852 to the design of the architect John Pritchard. The building was designed to harmonise with the church on the one side and the ancient town gateway on the other.

The original features of blue lias stone, Welsh slated roof and gables, and tall ashlar stacks were renovated where necessary and maintained to their original form.

The building had been vacant for a number of years, therefore requiring a vast amount of work to bring it into habitable use.

A high degree of skill was required to replace the Welsh slate roof covering and the detailed leadwork.

Matching stonework was incorporated in areas of the external wall infill areas, together with sandstone features to match the existing building facade. This work was carried out to such a high standard that it is near impossible to know the difference between new and original areas.

With many of the original internal features maintained, each apartment has a unique design. Matching areas of detailing to the architraves and coving was also required. Where they had to be replaced or extended, it was undertaken to a high degree of workmanship.

The bathrooms and kitchens have been fitted to the highest standard. Staircases internally are of oak design.

Taking into consideration the overall condition of the building, prior to the commencement of the project, the developer has achieved a high quality development, as well as preserving another of our important listed buildings.

Plots 1 & 2, River Court, Treoes

Applicant:
Mr G & Mrs J Hayward

Contractor:
A.J.F Building Services Ltd

River Court is a development of modern housing set on the edge of the village of Treoes, occupying land formerly used by Great House Farm.

The nature of the built-up ground required strip foundations of almost 2.0m in depth, and both the ground and first floors were of precast concrete beam and block floors, together with a precast concrete staircase.

The contemporary designs follow a theme of mono-pitched roofs, to create a similar style of property, yet display subtle individual differences.

Features include specialist cladding of wood/upvc content, under-floor heating to all levels, angled fenestration, vaulted roofs, an integrated home entertainment system throughout the house, and rain-sensor operated roof-windows.

The contractor maintained constant contact with Building Control throughout the project, and has produced two dwellings to be proud of, which display an exemplary standard of detail and finish.

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Land at 14, Smithies Avenue, Sully

Applicant/Contractor: **Langdale Homes Ltd**

Agent: **Loyn & Co. Architects**

The work comprises two new dwellings, which replace a dilapidated bungalow on a large plot. They have been designed to maximise the stunning views to the south-west from the rear balconies across the Bristol Channel, to the north Devon coastline.

Each dwelling is a high specification, large, individually designed, 4 bedroom home. The walls are high performance specialist render on cavity blockwork. Under floor heating has been utilised, with beam and block floors. The roofs are flat 'warm roofs', using a high performance single membrane.

As an example of the generous room sizes in the development, the master bedrooms are 40sq.m plus ensuite. Large panoramic windows have been used to the rear, to benefit from the sea view. Due to the large rooms and the use of a flat roof, rooflights have been added to ensure adequate daylighting. The rear of the properties has been protected from excessive solar gain by the use of solar shading to the ground floor.

Submitted as a Full Plans application, this project was executed by a professional building team, who maintained a close liaison with Building Control throughout the project.

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Category 4 - Nomination for Social Affordable Housing

Vere Street, Barry

Applicant: **Pendragon Design & Build Ltd**

Agent: **Willdig Lammie Partnership**

Contractor: **Pendragon Design & Build Ltd**

The work consisted of 7 flats constructed over 3 storeys and a basement area incorporating the services and rear access to the communal area.

The roof design varied - with traditional pitch roof over the 3 storey section, a flat roof with a canopy design and internal rainwater drainage system over the central staircase, and a pitch roof with parapet walls over the two-storey section.

The building was constructed on a confined site, where health and safety issues were a main concern, especially as it is in a built up area. There are residential and commercial properties in close proximity, which meant limited disruption to the area.

The workmanship was carried out to an excellent standard, reflected in the air-pressure test results being very low - proving that good design, along with construction, can achieve the requirements set-out in the Building Regulations.

The building consisted of a timber frame design with traditional brickwork and brick cladding exterior, along with individual heating systems, achieving good SAP results.

The Building Regulations were submitted under a partnership scheme. The working environment involved the builder, architect, partner authority and LABC warranty, which created a good working partnership.

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Bassett Street, Barry

Applicant: **United Welsh Housing Association**

Agent: **Pentan Partnership**

Contractor: **E.T. & S. Construction Ltd**

A block of flats has been constructed on the site of a former ambulance station in Barry. The block provides 5 residential-supported, 1-bedroom apartments, with an additional apartment for a support worker.

The scheme is built over two floors and incorporates a staircase and lift to the first floor.

The building is traditionally built with masonry walls, trussed roof and concrete tiled roof and as well as having to comply to the to the building regulations had to also comply with Secure by Design Standards.

The standard of construction was high and the contractor built up a good working relationship with the Building Control Department, ensuring that all statutory inspections were undertaken, as well as non-statutory inspections.

As the project was of a domestic nature, compliance with SAP 2005 was required; including the provision for pre-completion air testing and an Energy Performance Certificate.

All the Energy Performance Certificates on each of the individual flats indicated an energy efficiency level B, in both the energy performance and environmental impact of the project.

Overall, the building is of high quality, due to the relationship between the main contractor and Building Control.

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Category 5 - Nomination for Commercial Property

New Pavilion, The Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Leisure Club, Hensol

Applicant/Contractor: **Leekes**

This new training facility is the latest of a number of developments undertaken through a partnership scheme with Building Control and Leekes.

The state of the art training facility has been constructed for the use of Cardiff City Football Club and Cardiff Blues Rugby Club.

The building has been designed to take into consideration the differing requirements of the two sports, and this is evident on all three levels.

It is a three-storey steel-framed structure with an insulated steel cladding external finish. The floors are concrete, to take into consideration its durable use.

Building regulation compliance has been achieved with access for all fire safety and energy regulations. Part of the energy requirement was to undertake an air test of the building to ensure that the air leakage rate was within the requirements of the building regulations. There was also an energy assessment of the building to predict what carbon emissions there would be from the completed building.

The building has a shared basement where the two teams have separate gymnasium facilities.

The ground and first floor are again set out so that both teams have their own dedicated areas for the theory and nutritional side of their sports.

As Leekes were the owner and contractor for this development, the quality of finish and site control of all aspects of the construction process could be closely monitored. The good working relationship with building control has been in place for a number of years.

Before the project commenced, there were pre-planning design meetings to iron out any potential problems that might arise during the construction stage.

The overall teamwork approach between Building Control and the developer was a major benefit to the success of the scheme.

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Category 5 - Nomination for Commercial Property

Llandough Hospital, Penarth

Applicant: **Cardiff & Vale Trusts**

Agent: **Stride Treglown Davies**

Contractor: **Carter Lauren**

The building combines traditional brickwork, which complements the existing Postgraduate building, with modern terracotta blockwork to create a new and fresh façade.

The plan is designed to accommodate the future extension of the library on the ground floor, flexible seminar spaces on the first floor, teaching rooms and associated offices.

Access to the facade and roof is straightforward, in order to provide an envelope that is easy and safe to maintain.

This new unit was constructed within a very confined site near the main entrance of a very busy hospital; which already has major parking and traffic flow issues.

The unit had to be constructed adjacent to an existing working educational unit, which required the contractor to provide temporary evacuation stairs. Major alterations were also ongoing within the ground floor level. Another site issue for the contractor was a major live main sewer which ran adjacent to the foundations that also had to be partially diverted in order to construct the new unit.

Numerous site meetings were held between the contractors, architects, NHS Trust staff and Building Control to plan and discuss how the project would develop through the construction process. As a consequence of this team-developed approach, the unit was constructed to a high class finish, which has proved once again that teamwork involving all parties can lead to a very good building being constructed, with minimal disruption, within an ongoing working environment.

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Fig Tree Restaurant, Penarth

Applicant: **Mr. N. Fox & Mr. M. Caplan**

Agent: **Tony King Architects**

Contractor: **Terry Ford, C/o T. A. Lee Construction**

This property, previously used as a multi-function hall and public shelter, had been in disuse for many years prior to its conversion to a modern restaurant.

The main fabric of the building required little work, except for internal plastering and finishes, to provide well equipped facilities capable of accommodating 60 people within the main restaurant, and a covered balcony area providing external seating for another 20 people.

The roof garden also accommodates a significant number of people during summer days, and is served by a service pod with 'dumb waiter' access to the main kitchen preparation area.

Set within the Penarth Conservation Area, particular regard was given to the external treatment of the conversion, together with the colour scheme and signage of the finished project.

The developers maintained close contact with Building Control, to ensure all potential problem areas were resolved without issue, and to produce a scheme worthy of inclusion in our awards.

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THE Glamorgan GEM is proud to once again co-sponsor the 7th annual Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards.

As the Vale's most widely-read weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular, especially at such a difficult time economically.

As such it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their aspirations and achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves

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Caroline Attya, General Manager

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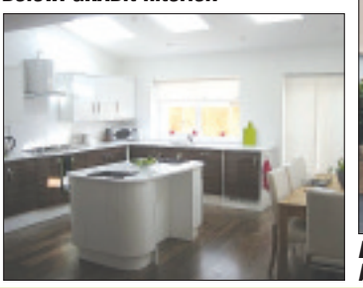

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The Five Top Tips in Home Extensions

By Fiona Evans

Manager of A One Construction in Bridgend, Fiona Evans, who has a wealth of experience advising clients on the best alterations to their homes, has provided this list of the 5 best options for improving your home:

"If you're thinking of moving in the short term, improving your kitchen and bathroom is the most important update you can make to your house, because without a doubt they are the main attraction to potential buyers. However many of our current clients are looking to make the most of their existing homes and enjoying what they have got now, plus of course, the right improvements will help sell the house in the future when the market improves.

KITCHENS: In my experience, the most popular renovation work to a house is the extension of a kitchen, either by building a single or double storey and making the kitchen larger, or by joining the kitchen and dining room together. The open plan kitchen and diner is very popular at the moment as the kitchen dining area is always a place where friends and family gather and many people feel that a separate dining room is wasted space. It also gives the chef of the house an opportunity to mingle with guests. I would always recommend buying the best kitchen units you can afford and also the very best worktop as it will last a long time and improve the value of the house should you choose to move.

A LOFT CONVERSION is very popular, as there is no groundwork necessary and often it is space going to waste. A carefully constructed loft extension can supply a family with an extra bedroom and bathroom and still give room for storing things in the eaves. Provided you can accommodate the stairs, a loft extension is an excellent option for a growing family. The position of the additional stairs is important, but with careful planning can provide so much space. As part of a larger conversion, with maybe a two storey extension, this can provide economical additional room.

BEDROOMS, ENSUITE AND BATHROOMS: If you extend the house on the ground floor it makes sense to seriously consider a double storey extension, as the cost of the work is in the foundations and is not twice the price of a single storey addition. I would not recommend extending the house beyond 4 or 5 bedrooms unless you have a very large family and need the space, but extend the master bedroom and provide a full ensuite. Providing an extra separate bathroom will add more value to the house.

As mentioned before, if you're considering moving in the short term, do spend time and money on updating your bathroom. If the sanitary ware is good, then spend money on new taps for the shower and basins and ensuring everything looks clean and bright. Invest in some fluffy towels when viewers come around. Even though you're selling the house, not the towels; small details like this can make a big impression.

CONSERVATORY: Adding a glazed extension with traditional roof or conservatory with glazed roof can be a superb choice as it is economical and yet is such an attractive proposition for buyers. Depending on where you live, many conservatories don't need a planning application and the work is far quicker and more reasonable in price than a traditional extension.

GARAGE CONVERSION: The fifth top option for improving your home is a garage conversion. Like a loft conversion, the groundwork is already provided for most internal garages and therefore can provide a great office or playroom for children at a reasonable cost. If you're not using your garage and want extra space without huge building costs, then this is a fantastic option.

So often our clients have had renovation work with the idea of selling the house, but then fallen in love with their 'new' larger house and stayed in their 'new' house.

Particularly in the colder months, when we spend more time in our homes we all become aware of the limited space we have in our houses. Extra toys for youngsters take up more room and fitting everyone around the dining table can become an issue. So it's worth costing out a well planned extension in your own home, that you can benefit from now and reap the value from, if you sell in the future."

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HAVE you been thinking that somehow your house has got smaller this year? Maybe it's the extra toys or new furniture. Maybe it's because we're spending more time indoors in the winter months? Whatever the problem, there is an answer.

Many people are using existing mortgages and the low interest rates to make the most of the home they already own, realising that they can create the space they need without moving.

Fiona Evans, Manager of A One Construction in Bridgend, has observed this pattern; they offer a full planning-to-build service and are currently working on many renovations and extensions for houses in Bridgend and the Vale and other parts of South Wales.

"Extending your home with a larger kitchen or extra bedroom, can make a tremendous effect on your living experience today, but will also pay dividends if you choose to move in the future."

Fiona offers a concierge service to her clients, using her wide experience of the building process to provide advice and support from the planning stage through to final completion.

"We provide building services from small extensions to full house build, but whatever the project; service is our priority. Sometimes something so simple as choosing kitchen tiles with a client can help a project go smoothly, but that is just part of the service we offer."

Whether you opt for a bedroom, kitchen, sun room or conservatory by the time the sun arrives you'll want to be enjoying your new extended home, so start planning now and contact Fiona for more details.

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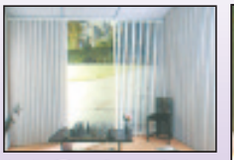

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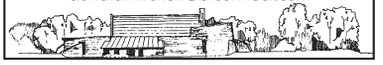

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Superb cast can't save Brothers from being an uneven piece of work...

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

AFTER his break-through turn in *Donnie Darko*, Jake Gyllenhall has slowly been building a solid body of work, mixing big budget fare with less mainstream work.

Before he truly goes supernova with the release of *Prince of Persia* later this year, audiences can see him in Irish director Jim Sheridan's latest film, *Brothers*.

Gyllenhall plays Tommy, who is recently released from prison and reconnects with his family, particularly older brother Sam (Tobey Maguire), a marine.

When Sam is posted to Afghanistan and goes missing, presumed dead, Tommy begins to develop a relationship with Sam's wife Grace (Natalie Portman) and his two nieces, as they learn to live their lives without Sam; but when Sam is found and returns home, the lives of all three of them begin to change dramatically...

Having all achieved a degree of fame and renown in a similar time period, *Brothers* offers the opportunity for Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhall and Natalie Portman to prove they have the necessary nous to deliver in more dramatic fare.

While they definitely deliver here, it is a shame that the material that supports them is so flimsy and workmanlike that it renders their turns a touch worthless in the overall scheme of things.

Certainly, the main three performances make the film better than the material would allow, with all three of the performers delivering strong turns that offer up a little more substance than we've seen from them in a while.

The real revelation is Tobey Maguire, who casts off the *Spiderman* outfit and proves that, before he was a superhero, he was also a pretty good actor. His performance as a family man whose love for his wife and children sits alongside his devotion to serve his country is the best on show, the nobility and commitment to the cause giving way to slow breakdown as the effects of his return affect both him and those close to him.

Maguire shows a deft ability here, letting the horrors he suffers boil slowly to the surface, with the smallest of actions (popping his daughter's balloon, reacting to noises in the night by waving a gun around) hinting at even more trouble below the surface.

As the wife whose love for her husband is tested by the events that take place in Aghanistan, Natalie Portman delivers another mature performance that feels credible and affecting.

Much like Maguire, hers is a performance that slowly unravels as her character gets put through the ringer and the actress is more than up to the task, captivating the screen and never failing to elicit an emotional response, wonderfully conveying the situation she finds herself in.

As the black sheep of the family, Jake Gyllenhall offers another robust turn, getting to grips with the process of developing the character as events force him to take a look at his life, and if he suffers from the failure of the script to really get under the skin of his character, his performance certainly manages to paper over the cracks.

David Benioff's screenplay, adapted from the Danish film of the same name, is the one element that fails to hold up its end of the bargain, feeling muddled, lacking notable depth despite its heavy subject matter and feeling very much undercooked.

Given the drama that unfolds throughout the course of the film, you would imagine the story would severely tug at the heartstrings, yet Benioff struggles to really convince.

He fails to give meat to the narrative and and reduces sub-plots that could have given the story depth (Tommy's crime, the relationship the two brothers have with their father, the relationship between Grace and Tommy) to barely anything.

It is frustrating, particularly as Irish director Jim Sheridan attempts to give the film a degree of punch and emotion.

His skill as a director certainly helps bring out the solid performances from his cast, as there are also strong offerings from Sam Shepard as the brothers' father, Bailee Madison and Taylor Geare as Sam and Grace's two daughters, and a small cameo from up and coming British actress Carey Mulligan; however, saddled with Benioff's weak and well worn screenplay, the director isn't able to transform the material given to him into gold.

It's a shame that such strong performances can't quite bring the rest of the film up to speed, but unfortunately Benioff's script is the main weight that brings down *Brothers* – and makes such superb turns from the cast feel a touch spoiled.

VERDICT - Somewhat of an underwhelming misfire, *Brothers* sees the performances of Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhall and Natalie Portman pack a punch that is undone by David Benioff's lacklustre script.

If only this had been improved upon, then *Brothers* would be a powerful look at the effect of loss on a family; instead it is an uneven piece of work held together by a superb cast. *Average*.

NEWS FROM POSITIVE IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

A new venture for PIPS group

A member's image called 'Canada'.

FOLLOWING an enforced winter break due to the recent bad weather, Positive Image Photographic Society members got together for their 'Late, Late Christmas Dinner', at the Mount Sorrel Hotel.

The New Year not only promises an exciting mix of guest speakers, but also a new venture when members will be exhibiting images publicly for the first time.

This has not been practicable before because the home base, St Baruc's Church, Barry Island, is, of course, in constant use and a suitable, alternative venue, has not been available.

'Just Pictures', an exhibition of members' work will open to the public at the Park Gallery, Victoria Park, Cadoxton on February 6 and will continue until February 28. (*More details are available from John Greatrex on 07809 551465).*

The next meeting, on February 4, will feature Gareth Martin 'CPAGB' who will be making his first visit to PIPS. Gareth's presentation of images of the Highlands of Scotland promises to be a feast of brilliant landscapes.

Positive image Photographic Society meets at 7.30pm on alternate Thursdays at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island. New members will be made very welcome.

Further details of the club and forthcoming events including forthcoming competition details are on the societies website at ***www.positiveimagebarry.org.uk.***

Local man leads the battle to save butterfly from a killer parasite

OXFORD University research ecologist Owen Lewis, formerly of Bridgend, is leading a countrywide study into the sudden decline of one of Britain's most colourful garden butterflies.

Talking to members of the Bridgend Wildlife Group, Dr Lewis explained that the Small Tortoiseshell (Aglais urticae) is under threat from an alien species of a parasitoid fly (Sturmia Bella) which is believed to be partly responsible for a sudden crash in the butterflies' UK population.

The fly crossed the English Channel in 1968, arriving in Hampshire before moving slowly north.

The rapid decline started in 2008. The insect – the size of a house fly – appears to single out the Tortoiseshell by laying eggs on the underside of nettles next to the butterflies' caterpillars, said Dr. Lewis.

The eggs hatch and develop within the caterpillars as they grow, ultimately killing their hosts and wiping out an entire summer brood.

A research team made up of Oxford scientists and experts from other wildlife groups, including Butterfly Conservation, rely on 200 volunteers across the UK to collect the butterflies' caterpillars and breed them in captivity, before sending the results to the team for laboratory analysis.

Dr Lewis, a fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, and working in the Zoology department, said that the results of the survey over two years – involving 150 batches of eggs – showed that two thirds were attacked by Sturmia Bella.

However, more research was needed to prove that the fly (among other natural predators and parasites) was largely responsible for the butterflies' death.

The Small Tortoiseshell made a welcome recovery in September 2008 by a continental influx of the species across southern Britain from the east coast, but UK numbers are still declining.

Dr Lewis revealed for the first time that Sturmia Bella had moved to the north of England where results of predation were being monitored. The fly has also arrived in south Wales – with evidence from Cowbridge and Pontypool.

"What we are still trying to work out is whether Sturmia Bella is responsible for the decline of the Small Tortoiseshell – so we need to know more about the biology of the fly. The question is: does Sturmia Bella compete with other native parasitoids?" said Dr Lewis.

Richard Smith of Butterfly Conservation South Wales, said: "This year, amateur butterfly enthusiasts will be taking part in the survey – collecting larvae from a number of habitats in Wales. This is important work to help identify all the contributory causes for the butterflies' decline.

Owen Lewis.

"From our own records of a survey in one area of the Vale of Glamorgan, we can confirm that sitings of the Small Tortoiseshell were down to three for the entire year of 2008."

The Small Tortoiseshell was a rarity in South Wales through the summer of 2008 - but the butterfly began appearing on nectar-rich garden Buddleia in the autumn, thanks to a late migration from the continent.

Undoubtedly, it is one our loveliest butterflies and was commonly seen in past years, feeding on garden flowers, alongside Red Admirals and Peacocks, throughout the summer.

It hibernates during the winter – hiding in garden sheds, on ivy-clad walls and trees – and even indoors behind curtains and blinds.

The current research programme is vital for the butterfly's survival.

Two wins out of three for Llantwit boxers

CELTIC Club, Maesteg was the latest venue for three Llantwit Major boxers.

Lee Dixon from Rhoose boxed N Sheeran, Caerau Dragons ABC, in a three two-minute rounds contest. Lee boxed well behind a good straight left hand, winning the first two rounds.

Sheeran changed his tactics in the last round, trying to stay close to Lee. The Llantwit boxer was guilty of holding, and the referee gave him a public warning which meant Sheeran would receive two additional points. However, Lee got the decision from the judges by a wide margin.

RIGHT:* *Lee Dixon.

Dan Ruffle was the second Llantwit Major ABC to box, his opponent D Andrews of Taibach ABC.

Andrews took the contest to Dan, missing with most of his shots. Dan countered throughout this evenly matched bout. he moved well around the ring, and he won the contest on a unanimous decision from the three judges.

Dale Phillips boxed the host club boxer T Penny in the last bout of the night. Dale had lost weight for this contest and fought well for the two rounds. The last round saw the boxer from the strong Maesteg club coming forward throughout the final round. Dale was under pressure but taking most of the blows on his arms. The referee gave Dale Phillips a standing count of eight, and Penny got the close decision.

Barry Lions' concert for Haiti

BARRY Lions Club have rushed to the aid of the people of Haiti – and members are feeling a sense of personal loss.

A club spokesman said: "The Haiti earthquake has affected Lions Clubs directly, as two members of Haiti Lions were killed in the disaster, as were some relatives of other members of the club.

"Despite their personal tragedies, the members, together with a visiting Lions Club from Canada, helped in the rescue activities. Lions Clubs International has already responded with an immediate donation of $350,000 and funds are pouring in from other clubs throughout the world.

"Barry Lions Club had already arranged a charity ABBA tribute night for January 30 at the Old School, Sully, and it has now been agreed that all the proceeds will be sent to add to the reconstruction funds for the Haitians."

Barry Lions Club's 'ABBA' Extravaganza features local singing star Maria Lyn.

It takes place on Saturday, January 30 at 7.30pm for an 8pm start at The Old School, South Road, Sully.

There will be a licensed bar and buffet and tickets are £15 each – contact the following for details: John Arbourne – 029 2053 0114; Ian Mathias – 029 2053 0441; Julian Meredith – 029 2053 0004.

Vale Council offers charities recycling deal to boost funds

CHARITIES are being offered the opportunity to boost their funds and help the environment by forging recycling partnerships with the Vale Council.

Under a new scheme agreed by the council cabinet, charities contributing recyclable waste being removed from the domestic waste stream, will be paid £10 per tonne for their material.

A number of controls will ensure against error and fraud, and these will include providing proof that the material is from the household waste stream within the Vale boundaries. The projected payment will reflect the value of the material in recycling markets, and the savings which will be made by the council in not having to collect and dispose of the material.

Two charities, Scope, the organisation supporting those with disabilities whose focus is people with cerebal palsy, and Clothes Aid, will be the first recipients in the Vale. Their materials include paper, glass, cans and textiles.

Schools, colleges, or third party commercial recycling organisations from whom waste is currently collected by the council, would not be eligible.

The cabinet member for visible and building services, Coun Geoff Cox said: "It is important that the council continues to encourage recycling across the community and that the council benefits from the additional tonnages to assist with meeting Welsh Assembly Government recycling targets."

The Vale Council's current recycling and composting rate is just over 41 per cent, and Assembly targets are 40 per cent (by 2010), 52 per cent (2012-13) and 70 per cent (2024-25). Every 100 tonnes of recycling collected at a cost of £1,000 represents a 0.43 per cent contribution towards the targets.

Email your news and views to: ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mr John Mills – **St Lythans House, St Lythans,** – single storey side extension.
Mr Paul Gaughan – **Deg Erw, Twyn Yr Odyn, St Lythans** – detached garage.
BT Openreach Wayleaves Dept – **outside 39 Pyymouth Road, Penarth** – new green metal cabinet (height 1,600mm, width 1,299mm, depth 450mm).
Mr Sid Gaughan – **land adjacent to Marsyn, St Lythans** – proposed single storey stable facilities.
Barracuda Group – **The Buccaneer, 62-66 Holton Road, Barry** – variation of Condition 3 - m05/01859/FUL - change of use from Class A1 (retail) to Class A3 (food and drink) including new rear extension, external area and new shop front.
Beechwood Court Limited – **Beechwood College, Hayes Road, Sully** – two-storey extension to existing college providing a new sluice room and cleaners' room.
Mr Peter Marriot – **66 High Street, Cowbridge** – construction of glass porch.
Mr Colin Anstee – **Willow Cottage, Treoes** – extension and alterations out outbuilding stables, to create new dwelling as amendment to previous approved application 2009/00322/FUL.
Mr and Mrs G May – **6 Brig y Don Hill, Ogmore by Sea** – loft conversion including erection of two dormers to front and two dormers to rear elevation.
Openreach PP110A – **Baptist Church Cottage, Victoria Road, Penarth** – new fibre optic modular cabinet (Grid ref 318336, 171380).
Mr and Mrs Simon Chandler – **3 Tennyson Road, Penarth** – single storey rear extension to provide and breakfast room.
Mr and Mrs J Raymond – **Waterton Lodge, Colwinston** – single storey extension to existing dwelling to provide annexe accommodation.
Openreach – **opposite 31 Victoria Road, Penarth** – new fibre optic modular cabinet.
Mr Simon Steele – **1 Halton Close, Penarth** – single storey extension with dormer windows to roof and new detached garage with new vehicular access to highway.
Openreach – **Hickman Road, next to 9 Bradenham Place, Penarth** – new fibre optic cabinet.
Mr Shakur Ahmed – **Barn at Welford Farm, Rhoose** – barn conversion.
Openreach Narrowband Wayleave Office – **side of 84 Stanwell Road (actual site is in Roseberry Place), Penarth** – green coloured fibre optic cabinet.
Mr Karl Stephens – **The Sycamores, St Owains Crescent, Ystradowen** – conversion of existing garage and proposed first floor side extension above converted garage.
Openreach Narrowband Wayleave Office – **19 Cwrt Y Vil Road, Penarth** – one new green coloured fibre optic modular cabinet.
Mr S Collier – **Springfield, Westra, Dinas Powys** – proposed single storey conservatory.
Llancarfan and District Community Association – **Llancarfan Community Hall, Llancarfan** – extension to existing community hall, incorporating disabled toilet facilities with additional storage area. Replacement windows to existing building to existing fenestration, plus replacement doors to existing.
Openreach Narrowband Wayleave Office – **side of No 30, Clive Place, Penarth** – new fibre optic modular cabinet.
Openreach Narrowband Wayleave Office – **outside Balmoral Quays, The Esplanade, Penarth** – one new fibre optic modular cabinet.
Penarth Town Council – **The Paget Rooms, Victoria Road, Penarth** – replace corrugated asbestos cement cladding with vertical clay tile hanging. Renew flat roof covering and parapet repairs.
Tesco Ltd – **Tesco Stores Ltd, Stirling Road, Barry** – construction of a glazed lobby extension to the store with sliding doors to either side and main shopfront opening. Street furniture relocated to accommodate new lobby.
Wales and West Housing Association – **62-98 Wyndham Street, Barry** – supply and erect steel bow top rails 700mm high to boundary wall of David Davies House.
Mr Paul Snelling – **Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Copthorne** – amendments to shop front.
Openreach Narrowband Wayleave Office – **adjacent to No 1 John Street, Penarth** – new fibre optic modular cabinet.
Mr and Mrs Andrew Thomas – **The Gables, 60 Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – single storey rear extension to increase kitchen/breakfast/living space. Removal of garage replaced with new store and new ensuite at first floor to bedroom one. Roof replacement to existing family bathroom/ensuite adjacent.
Mr Lesley John Berger – **Apartments 1, 2, 3 and 4 Highfield Close, Park Road, Barry** – 1) refurbishment and bedroom extension to first floor flat to existing building, including new window opening to ground floor living dining room and pergola over. 2) Car parking to serve three flats (1, 2 and 3) and maisonette (No 4) at rear.
Mr Paul Stinati – **8 West Acres, Llanmaes** – single storey kitchen and bedroom extensions.
JD Clowes – **5 High Street, Cowbridge** – renewal of application 05/00097/FUL for conversion of retail premises from rented house.
Mr R Evans – **The Stables, Cae Stumpie, Cowbridge** – addition of wooden fencing to front and side above existing retaining wall.
Mr Alan Griffiths – **Lawn Cottage, Ystradowen** – erection of extension and alteration of existing building.
Angela Green – **Montclair, Michaelston Le Pit, dinas Powys** – fell three sycamore stems.
Penny Jones – **4 Merevale, Dinas Powys** – reduce chestnut.
Mr Mark Edwards – **1 New Barn, Flemingston** – provision of caravan touring park including conveniences, pitches, public open space etc.
Mr Michael Sing – **34 Shakespeare Avenue, Penarth** – rear roof extension to form loft conversion.
Mr Michael Chapman – **3 Downs View, Aberthin** – two-storey extension to the side of dwelling with single storey extension to rear.
Matrix Reality Investments Limited – **New primary care centre, Innovation Quarter, adjacent Hood Road, Barry** – relocation and re-design of an external bin store for Innovation Quarter Medical Centre.
Mrs Rachel Davies – **5 Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan** – single and two-storey extension to rear and porch extension to front.
Mr Christopher Evans – **1 St-Y-Nyll Cottages, Heol St-Y-Nyll, St Brides** – two-storey kitchen/lounge/bedroom extension. Two-storey front porch extension, double garage and summer house.
Mr Owen Hopkin – **15 Sullivan Close, Penarth** – two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
Mr Alex French – **26 Augusta Road, Penarth** – conversion of roof space to provide two bedrooms and bathroom and single storey side extension.
Graham James Property – **land between 34 and 35 High Street and 106 and 107 Queen Street, Barry** – development of seven residential units.
Mr C Regan – **south of television transmitting station, Windy Ridge Farm, Wenvoe** – detached agricultural building.
Mr T Cuddihy – **Gatekeepers Lodge, Hayes Point, Hayes Road, Sully** – double garage with ancillary offices/studio and replacement/new boundary wall enclosure.
Mr and Mrs Richard Calcaterra – **The Nest, St Hilary** – single storey extension to the front of existing dwelling.
Mr A Littlejohn – **43 Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major** – alteration to existing roof form and extension.
Mr John Phillips – **Palla Farm, Peterston Super Ely** – replacement agricultural storage building (retrospective).

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01359/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Amendments to application 2009/00011/FUL to provide a kitchen extension with en-suite bedroom at first floor level and a utility extension
Location:/Lleoliad: The Chestnuts, Llysworney
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llysworney

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01365/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: External alterations comprising demolition, construction of new store entrance portico and orangery on rear elevation
Location:/Lleoliad: Tumblers Chase, St Hilary, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Hilary

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00003/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of existing garage into living accommodation to form self contained auxiliary accommodation annexed to existing house and new single storey garage in existing garden.
Location:/Lleoliad: The Meadows, St. Hilary, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth St. Hilary

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00011/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Provide a safe system to enclose the wheelie bins to prevent them straying onto the public highway and to avoid any fly tipping in the area
Location:/Lleoliad: 11, Windsor Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00012/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Change of Use of First Floor units (A3) to Live/Work Units
Location:/Lleoliad: Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00007/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Restoration of existing grade II listed building, regularisation of use of existing second floor involving alterations to existing rear wing, erection of two and a half storey extension to rear wing, and single storey dining room extension to rear of building
Location:/Lleoliad: Downs Farm House, Wick Road, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00016/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remove existing black awning above ground floor walkway and replace with a retractable black awning
Location:/Lleoliad: Marooned Hairdressers, 52A, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01280/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of garage to provide accommodation for parents
Location:/Lleoliad: Vicarage Lawns, St Brides Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting The Old Vicarage, Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01305/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension and alterations of outbuilding stables, to create new dwelling as amendment to previous approved application 2009/00322/FUL
Location:/Lleoliad: Willow Cottage, Treoes
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Saron Chapel, Grade II and The Star Inn Public House, Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00006/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Restoration of existing grade II listed building, regularisation of use of existing second floor involving alterations to existing rear wing, erection of two and a half storey extension to rear wing, and single storey dining room extension to rear of building
Location:/Lleoliad: Downs Farmhouse, Wick Road, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Downs Farmhouse, Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01336/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Provision of caravan touring park including conveniences, pitches, public open space etc.
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, New Barn, Flemingston

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01360/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Landside extension to Cardiff Airport terminal building including re-configuration of passenger drop off area and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Cardiff Airport, Rhoose

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01367/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Temporary Car Park for the duration of the construction of the MHSOP Project. The Car Park provides parking for the building contractor's operatives and compensates for the loss of Staff Car Parking spaces which have been overlayed by the temporary diversion of the Hospital Service Road. Staff car parking spaces will be reinstated upon completion of the development
Location:/Lleoliad: Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01368/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of land at St. Johns Well for up to 100 dwellings, public open space and associated access
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan
Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2009/01368/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Development of land at St. Johns Well for up to 100 dwellings, public open space and associated access
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at St. Johns Well, St. Athan

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk
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Dated: 28 January, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 28 Ionawr, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Grant helps basketball club to go electronic!

***LEFT:** The Barry Huskies Second team with Coun Ernest, Alun Rees and Julie Andrus proudly show off the new electronic scoreboard obtained with assistance from the Sports Council for Wales.*

SOUTH Wales' oldest basketball club is set to record its on-court success in style after a grant from the Sports Council for Wales helped buy a new portable scoreboard and clock.

The Barry Huskies have been at the heart of local basketball for five decades, having been established in 1963, and a £1,000 Community Chest grant enables them to keep up with the times – and scores.

The new portable scoreboard will be in use for matches at the Holm View Leisure Centre in Barry, as the club aim for top spot in the South Wales Valleys League.

Agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from the Vale Council's sports and play development team and the Sports Council, the Community Chest grants scheme supports clubs and organisations that aim to provide new and improved opportunities for local people to take part in sports and physical activities.

The £1,000 – the maximum grant available – was a welcome boost for the Huskies, as club chairman Alun Rees explained: "We are absolutely delighted to have received this grant. In addition to being able to buy the new scoreboard, we are also using some of the grant to improve coaching standards and, hopefully, attract the next generation of players to the game."

Congratulating the club on their grant, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "It's great to see another club benefit from the Community Chest scheme, and I hope that their new scoreboard records many Barry Huskies victories for years to come."

If you are part of a Vale-based organisation, club or workplace and would like to discuss a potential Community Chest application, contact the Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, on 01446 704793 or request an application form by calling Julie Morgan on 01446 704748.

For more about the Barry Huskies Basketball Club visit www.barryhuskies.net or call Alun Rees on 07939 058170.

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £310,000

Well established detached family residence and detached garage with adjoining study and shower room to the rear and occupying a large plot of ground. Comprising Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Three double bedrooms plus Attic room. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and good size gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 437D

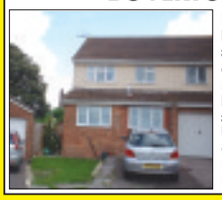
ST ATHAN - £99,950

Well maintained three bedroom end of terrace house comprising Hallway, Cloakroom/WC, Living Room, Modern fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Utility Room. Southerly facing rear garden. Freehold. Ref 455D

BOVERTON - £139,750

Modern three bedroom link house with garage comprising Porch, Lounge, Well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Open plan to front and good size rear garden with access to the garage. Ref 464D

BOVERTON - £157,000



Modern three bedroom semi detached house with good size family accommodation as the integral garage has been recently converted into an additional reception room. Comprising Hallway, Lounge which has been extended, Fitted Kitchen, Dining area, Utility Room, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. PVC rainwater goods. Driveway to front and garden to the rear. Freehold. Ref 465D

LLANTWIT MAJOR – £210,000

Modern three bedroom detached house and garage situated at the head of a cul de sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining area with patio doors opening to rear. En-suite shower room to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 466D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £257,500

Well maintained modern four bedroom detached house with garage and conservatory to the rear situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £320,000

Well maintained established detached bungalow and double garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Study, Inner Hallway, Re-fitted Bathroom/Shower Room, Re-fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with French doors to rear, Sitting Room, Ground floor bedroom with en-suite bathroom, Three further bedrooms to first floor. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Workshop/Tool store. Mature gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref

BOVERTON - £159,500

Modern three bedroom end of link house with purpose built conservatory to the rear and garage comprising Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Area, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Paved driveway and open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden with access to the garage. Ref 483D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £310,000

Spacious seven bedroom detached house with integral garage. The property has enjoyed residency for two families. Comprises Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Sitting Room, Kitchenette, Cloakroom/Shower room, Family Bathroom, Gas central heating. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold Ref 478D

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CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS AA CARDIFF CROSS CHALLENGE 2010 AND THE MCCAIN UK CARDIFF CROSS CHALLENGE, BLACKWEIR, CARDIFF

RECORD NUMBER OF PUPILS COMPETE IN CARDIFF PARKLAND ATHLETICS EVENTS

Report by PETER MORRIS
Photos by IAN DIXON

A RECORD number of Vale pupils competed for Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools at the 33rd Invitation Schools' Inter-County & Inter District Match held within the McCain UK Cardiff Cross Challenge at Blackweir.

More than 160 pupils took part in the maroon vest with the gold hoop of Cardiff & the Vale, with 65 coming from the Vale. Every secondary school in the Vale – Cowbridge, Llantwit, Barry Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren, Bro Morgannwg, St Richard Gwyn, Stanwell, St Cyres and Westbourne – plus Barry College had at least one pupil taking part.

Unlike competitions in other sports, this fixture catered for an age range starting from pupils in primary school to Master athletes over 70 through its 13-race programme, held over four and a half hours on a course which was sticky and cut up after the recent heavy snowfall.

With runners drawn from clubs across the UK, plus more than 500 pupils in the school teams from Afan Nedd Tawe, Cardiff & the Vale, Dyfed, Glamorgan Valleys, Gloucestershire and Powys, this was a tough opening fixture of the year.

In the schools' section, Megan Osborne was the only Vale athlete to claim an individual medal, the Llantwit year-9 pupil ran strongly to take second behind old rival Rebecca Evans (Glamorgan Valleys, Y Pant) in the junior girls section, the second biggest female race of the day with 101 finishers.

Host organising district Cardiff & the Vale, has struggled to make an impact in the team competitions at this fixture in recent years, but fortunes may be changing as they claimed wins in two sections.

The year-7 boys win was completely out of the blue, easily beating Gloucestershire by more than 30 points, with Elliot Morris Devred (Barry Comp) having easily his best run of the winter to finish 21st in the race and 14th in the schools' section, and making the sixth scoring spot in the team.

There was a second success in the penultimate race for the schools – for middle boys in years 10 and 11. Here Cardiff & the Vale fielded a very young – mainly year-10 – team but they responded magnificently to defeat an older and more experienced Gloucestershire squad by five points.

Three Vale pupils were in the six A team scorers. Year-10 Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg) was another to chose this big stage to have his best run of the winter, finishing 18th overall and 8th in the schools' section, with another year-10, Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive), two places behind and year-11 Rhys George (Bro Morgannwg) completing the scoring six, 40th overall and 25th in the schools' section.

It was good to see Owen Haswell (Stanwell) and Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral) back in action after missing the autumn term races. Owen led the senior boys team home, finishing 11th in the schools' section, three ahead of Darren Jones (Llantwit).

Caitlin found things much tougher in the Middle Girls race, having to settle for third Vale finisher behind Bethan Daw (St Cyres), who was the first Cardiff & Vale girl home, 23rd in the race and 13th in the schools, and Fiona Bray (Cowbridge).

In the junior boys' race, the Vale contingent were led home by year-8 pupils Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg) and Ben Owen (Llantwit) but they will be disappointed at only scoring for the district B team.

Nadine James was the top Vale year girl. The Cowbridge pupil finished just ahead of school-mate Rebecca Thomas in 37th overall, and 19th in the schools.

There was only one Vale sixth form girl competing in the six girl senior squad, and year-12 Bethan Heslop (Bro Morgannwg) had a very creditable run.

In the two primary races, pupils from Evenlode, in Penarth, fielded the biggest number of pupils with Harry Williams finishing fifth in the boys' race and Seren Marsh claiming top spot in the girls' event. Dewi Bennett, listed simply as Barry, was fourth in the boys' run.

In the races for older club athletes, it was encouraging to see former St Cyres pupil Alex Hains back in action in Wales – he finished fourth in the senior men's race – while former Barry & Vale Harriers Phil Cook (Les Croupiers), now eligible as an M40-44, also took fourth place in the Mixed Master race.

For the pupils in the Cardiff & the Vale Schools team, this event was both a test and a stepping stone towards selection for the 12-strong district teams, which will be fielded at year 7, junior (years 8 and 9), middle (years 10 and 11) and senior (sixth form) at the Aviva 48th Welsh Schools' championships at Brecon on Saturday, February 27.

Boys and girls both had one fixture left to clinch their place in the team, with the boys third league fixture (incorporating the 2010 championships) having been held at Trelai on Tuesday of this week (January 26), and the equivalent girls' fixture following on Tuesday, February 9 on the same Trelai course.

Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' association would like to record its gratitude to Messrs Fred Malkin (Barry & Vale Harriers), Rob Glaves (St Cyres) and Rhys Beynon (Bro Morgannwg) for helping with team management and event organisation.

Vale results

Races with Secondary Schools' Inter-County Match – the number after a pupil's school indicates their position in the school's section.

Senior boys: 6.5 km – 57 finishers – Individuals: 27 Owen Haswell (Stanwell, 11) 22:07; 33 Darren Jones (Llantwit, 14) 22:34; 42 Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg, 23) 23:39; 51 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg, 32) 24:57; 57 Kyle Garrison (Barry College, 38) 30:10.

Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 129; 4 Cardiff & the Vale B 208.

Middle boys – Years 10 and 11 – 6 km – 81 finishers – Individuals: 18 Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg, 8) 20:35; 20 Matthew Edwards (Barry, 10) 20:44; 40 Rhys George (Bro Morgannwg, 25) 22:02; 42 Dan Lewis (St Cyres, 27) 22:07; 57 Morgan Preece (Bro Morgannwg, 40) 22:52; 70 Tom Howles (Llantwit, 52) 24:10; 74 Dan Owen (Llantwit, 56) 24:46; 75 Huw Evans (Stanwell, 57) 24:49; 77 Abdel Boulaiche (St Cyres, 59) 25:10.

Teams: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 74; 7 Cardiff & the Vale B 239.

Junior boys – Years 8 and 9 – 4.2 km – 110 finishers – Individuals: 63 Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg, 37) 16:09; 65 Ben Owen (Llantwit, 39) 16:14; 81 Jake Bosza (Westbourne, 53) 17:08; 83 Jacob Briscombe (Bro Morgannwg, 55) 17:14; 84 Matthew Collins (Barry, 56) 17:17; 87 Tom Griffiths (Bro Morgannwg, 58) 17:30; 90 Sam Laity (Westbourne, 61) 17:36; 99 Sam Peterken (St Cyres, 70) 18:05; dnf Harri Williams (Bro Morgannwg).

Teams: 4 Cardiff & the Vale 136; 7 Cardiff & the Vale B 232; 9 Cardiff & the Vale C 294; 10 Cardiff & the Vale D 353; 11 Cardiff & the Vale E 433.

Year-7 boys – 3 km – 82 finishers – Individuals: 21 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp, 14) 10:50; 24 Ellis Rosser (Cowbridge, 17) 10:54; 26 Tom Lucas (Cowbridge, 19) 10:58; 45 Kristian Jones (Cowbridge, 37) 11:23; 50 David Constantino (Stanwell, 41) 11:26; 51 Doug Wilson (B of Llandaff, 42) 11:29; 52 Toby Walker (Cowbridge, 43) 11:30; 58 Huw Bennett (Cowbridge, 49) 11:42; 65 Scott Dutfield (Stanwell, 55) 11:52; 67 David Flanigan (Stanwell, 57) 11:53.

Teams: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 48; 4 Cardiff & the Vale B 142; 7 Cardiff & the Vale C 255; 11 Cardiff & the Vale D 335.

4.8 km – 42 finishers – Individuals: 38 Bethan Heslop (Bro Morgannwg, 24) 23:10.

Teams – 4 to score: 5 Cardiff & the Vale 75.

Middle girls – 4.8 km – 72 finishers – Individuals: 23 Bethan Daw (St Cyres, 13) 18:39; 36 Fiona Bray (Cowbridge, 26) 19:22; 39 Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral, 29) 19:44; 42 Eloise Laity (Westbourne, 32) 19:52; 49 Anthea Young (Llantwit, 39) 20:36; 50 Danielle Green (St Richard Gwyn, 40) 20:41; 62 Rachel Bradshaw (Cowbridge, 52) 23:04; 68 Amy Baldry (Llantwit, 58) 24:24.

Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 153; 6 Cardiff & the Vale B 224; 7 Cardiff & the Vale C 303.

Junior girls – Years 8 and 9 – 4.2 km – 101 finishers – Individuals: 14 Megan Osborne (Llantwit, 2) 13:47; 40 Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit, 25) 14:52; 45 Erin Hayes (Llantwit, 30) 15:01; 77 Rebecca John (Cowbridge, 59) 16:05; 78 Miriam Bennett (Cowbridge, 60) 16:07; 83 Rachel Cosier (Bryn Hafren, 65) 16:18; 85 Tillie Carter (Bryn Hafren, 67) 16:26; 96 Ffion Davies (Bro Morgannwg, 78) 17:50; 97 Bethan Yapp (Bro Morgannwg, 79) 17:55; 98 Caitlin Young (Bro Morgannwg, 80) 18:11.

Teams: 4 Cardiff & the Vale 105; 6 Cardiff & the Vale B 225; 9 Cardiff & the Vale C 341; 11 Cardiff & the Vale D 416.

Year-7 girls – 3 km – 104 finishers – Individuals: 38 Nadine James (Cowbridge, 19) 12:02; 42 Rebecca Thomas (Cowbridge, 23) 12:09; 43 Clara Jones (B of Llandaff, 24) 12:12; 54 Kate Griffin (The Cathedral, 35) 12:36; 57 Alice Tudor (Cowbridge, 38) 12:40; 58 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stanwell, 39) 12:44; 62 Chloe Hughes (Llantwit, 42) 12:49; 67 Eleanor Bishop (Cowbridge, 46) 12:52; 72 Ela Emyr (Cowbridge, 50) 13:03; 74 Maisie Squire (Stanwell, 52) 13:05; 87 Poppy Davies (Howell's, 65) 13:27; 90 Ella Dyer (Stanwell, 68) 13:34; 104 Brooke Langton-Cryer (Cowbridge, 80) 15:04.

Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 119; 7 Cardiff & the Vale B 219; 9 Cardiff & the Vale C 287; 11 Cardiff & the Vale D 379.

Races for club athletes – **Senior men** – 10.2 km – 42 finishers – Individuals: 4 Alex Hains (Cardiff AAC) 28:44.

Mixed masters – 6.5 km – 45 finishers – Individuals: 4 Phil Cook (Les Croupiers, M40) 22:28; 6 Simon Osborne (Bridgend, M45) 23:14; 9 Mick McGeoch (Les Croupiers, M50) 23:43; 35 Evatt Cummings (Bridgend, M40) 27:18; 41 Cath Hayes (Barry & Vale, W40) 31:34; 42 Dawn Howles (Barry & Vale, W40) 32:45.

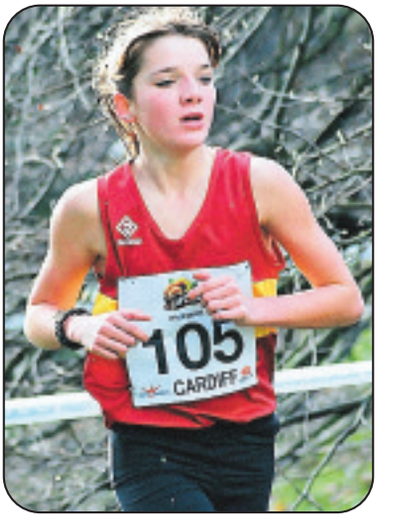
Primary schools boys – 1.3 km – 31 finishers – Individuals: 4 Dewi Bennett (Barry) 6:46; 5 Harry Williams (Evenlode) 6:53; 7 Matt Dawson (Evenlode) 7:01; 12 Rhys Davies Ysgol Iolo Morganwg 7:12; 14 William Marsh (Evenlode) 7:20; 16 Ben McCullagh (Evenlode) 7:22; 20 Cameron McJennett (Evenlode) 7:27; 21 Jack Ares-Swaine (Evenlode) 7:29; 23 Tomas Marsh (Evenlode) 7:43; 24 George Roberts (Evenlode) 7:52.

Primary schools girls – 1.3 km – 20 finishers – Individuals: 8 Seren Marsh (Evenlode) 7:35; 9 Samantha Thomas (Wick & Marcross) 7:41; 13 Alex Slack (Evenlode) 8:37; 14 Maddie Lloyd (Evenlode) 8:42; 16 Emily Geen (Evenlode) 9:01; 18 Evie Spencer (Evenlode) 10:30; 19 Paye Bramhill (Evenlode) 10:45; 20 Lily McJennett (Evenlode) 10:52.

Vale athletes Kristian Jones (Cowbridge 61), and Doug Wilson (Bishop of Llandaff 56) in action in the year-7 boys race.

Matthew Edwards, a team gold medal for the much-improved athlete from Barry Comprehensive.

Cowbridge year-10 Fiona Bray has plenty of maroon and gold vests for company as she battles it out in the middle girls' race.



Megan Osborne (Llantwit) second in the schools' junior girls race for years 8-9.

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Temporary up to 31st March 2011
Re-advertisement ***(previous applicants need not re-apply)***
JNC Youth and Community Support Workers Range Pt 17
15 hours per week to include evening and weekend work
Ref: Y-TR-YS046

Street Based Youth Worker / Driver *

Temporary up to 31st March 2011
Re-advertisement ***(previous applicants need not re-apply)***
JNC Youth and Community Support Workers Range Pt 17
15 hours per week to include evenings and weekends
Ref: Y-TR-YS045

For further information and an application form contact the Council by visiting www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or telephone contact OneVale on 01446 700111 between 8am-6pm.

Closing date: 11 February 2010.

Subject to # Job Evaluation and * CRB Disclosure.

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Good IT skills are essential for this post.
Hours are 9.00am-1.00pm Monday-Friday with 10 extra hours per month to cover occasional evening work.
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Applications in writing with full CV and references to be submitted by Monday February 8, 2010, to:
The Town Clerk, Bridgend Town Council, Glanogwr, Bridgend CF31 3PF.

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Weddings

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE
on the 6th February at Miskin Manor.

Jamie Thomas, son of Tony and Chris Thomas to **Joanne Williams**, daughter of Dr and Mrs Howard Williams of St Mellons.
Love to you both
Dad, Mum, Caroline, Harby, Anysha, Toby xxx

Birth Notices

Congratulations
Sarah & Luke
on the Birth of your Son
'Archie' Spencer Merlini
(Monday 18th Jan 2010)
with much love from
Mamgu xxx

Family Notices

LINES
Elizabeth

On January 22, peacefully at Velindre Hospital, Betty of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of Mervyn, loving mum of Julie, Sarah, Mary-Jane and Michael, dear mother-in-law of Roger, Paul, Martin and Stacey, much loved by all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.

Funeral Thursday, February 4, service 2pm at St James Church, Wick followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No black attire, please. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 7JF or Macmillan Nurses, 1st Floor, 1 Oldfield Road, Bocam Park, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5LJ.

JENKINS
Huw Steven 1982 – 2010

In his 28th year and after a short illness at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on the 18th January 2010, Huw of Boverton, Llantwit Major, dearly loved son of Sue and Ron, sadly passed away.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday 1st February. Service at St Illtud's Church Llantwit Major 9.45am, Committal Service at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend 11.00am.

Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Barnardo's Family Link Scheme, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

A SHINING LIGHT HAS GONE OUT IN OUR LIVES.

DAVID
Patricia Dorothy

On Jan 19 at UHW, Cardiff, peacefully after a short illness, Patricia (Pat) of Llantwit Major.
Beloved wife of Phillip, loving mother of Emma, much loved daughter of Audrey and the late David James, dear sister of Alun. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Wed Feb 3, service 12.30pm at St Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.45pm.
Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to National Association of Colitis and Crohns Disease (NACC) c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

HAMMETT
Annie Muriel

Peacefully on January 17 at UHW, Cardiff, Muriel of St Athan, beloved wife of the late William Evan, dearly loved mother of David and Valerie, mother-in-law of Dave, much loved Nana of Christopher, Gavin and Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, February 1, service 1.15pm at The Gathering Place, St Athan followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to National Osteoporosis Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

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* Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style, manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £120. £1,000 discount available at participating dealers only on Savvy 1.2 Style MT or Auto until 31st of March 2010. Offer excludes vehicles purchased under the government scrappage incentive scheme. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules. Terms and conditions apply.

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CITROEN C1			
08 1.0i Rhythm 3dr Hatch	Red	16,501 miles	£6,995
CITROEN C2			
58 1.4 HDi VTR 3dr Diesel Hatch	Black	9,091 miles	£8,495
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06 1.6i 16v VTR 3dr SensoDrive Hatch	Red	23,521 miles	£5,995
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08 1.4i Cachet 5dr Hatch Special Ed	Silver	11,905 miles	£7,995
56 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch	Grey	19,342miles	£6,495
55 1.6i 16v Exclusive 5dr Sensodrive Hatch	Blue	24,769 miles	£5,995
59 Pluriel 1.4i Cote d'Azur 2dr SE	Black	50 miles	£10,995
CITROEN C4			
59 1.6i 16v THO VTS 3dr Coupe	Blue	2,967 miles	£13,995
05 1.6HDi 16v VTR + 5dr Diesel Hatch	Grey	61,000 miles	£5,995
56 1.6iHDi 16v SX 5dr Diesel Hatch	Silver	19,901 miles	£7,995
56 1.6 16v Cool 3dr Coupe Sp Eds	Silver	29,002 miles	£6,995
06 1.6iHDi 16v VTR Plus 3dr Dsl Coupe	Silver	10,573 miles	£8,495
56 1.6i 16v VTR Plus 3dr Coupe	Black	36,847 miles	£6,995
07 1.4i 16v LX 5dr Hatch	Blue	18,000 miles	£6,495
07 1.6i 16v SX 5dr Auto Hatch	Mauve	11,434 miles	£6,495
CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO			
58 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Grey	19,441 miles	£14,495
08 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Blue	8,749 miles	£14,495
57 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Mauve	12,659 miles	£13,495
07 2.0 HDi 16v VTR + 5dr EGS D Est	Silver	21,659 miles	£13,495
CITROEN C4 PICASSO			
57 2.0 16v SX 5dr EGS (5 seat) Estate	Silver	7,723 miles	£10,995
CITROEN C5			
58 2.0i 16v VTR+ 4dr Saloon	Blue	21,324 miles	£11,995
58 2.0 HDi 16v VTR+ 4dr Auto Dsl Sal	Red	14,994 miles	£13,995
58 2.0 HDi 16v VTR+ 4dr Dsl Saloon	Blue	18,297 miles	£12,995
06 HDi 16v Exclusive 5dr Diesel Hatch	Silver	35,000 miles	£7,995
CITROEN RELAY			
58 2.2 HDi H1 Van 120ps 33 L1 Diesel	White	5,041 miles	£12,645
CITROEN XSARA PICASSO			
59 1.6i 16v Desire 5dr Estate	???	1 mile	£10.995
08 1.6 HDi 92 VTX 5dr Diesel Estate	Black	25,676 miles	£9,995
07 1.6i 16v Desire 5dr Estate	Silver	44,648 miles	£6,995
06 2.0 16v VTX 5dr Auto Estate	Blue	30,215 miles	£8,595
03 2.0 HDi SX 5dr Diesel Estate	Blue	51,662 miles	£4,995

58 CITROEN C5 2.0i 16v VTR + 4dr Saloon
Blue, 21,324 miles **£11,995**

03 Xsara Picasso 2.0 HDi SX 5dr Diesel Est
Blue, 51,662 miles **£4,995**

06 CITROEN C2 1.6i 16v VTR SensoDrive
3dr Hatch, Red, 23,521 miles **£5,995**

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE?

Mr Russell Phillips – **Highfield, Claude Road West, Barry** – detached double garage with attic store.
Mr Huw Thomas – **6 King Street, Penarth** – proposed ground floor extension and loft conversion.
Mr Geoffrey Rose – **32 Heol Y Dryw, Rhoose** – infill of porch canopy covering.
Mr Gareth Cording – **The Old Chapel, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major** – conversion of use from a disused place of worship to a two-bedroom dwelling.
Mrs Mary Odgers – **14 Ruthen Terrace, Barry** – proposed single storey rear extension to provide ground floor bedroom and disabled showing and WC facilities.
Mr Gareth Cording – **The Old Post Office, St Brides Major** – development of three one-bed flats including diversion of part of public footpath.
Mr Martin Chalk – **23 Castle Avenue, Penarth** – proposed two storey and single storey extensions to rear of property.
Wig Fach Property Co Ltd – **Sion Farm, Hazelwood, Ogmore By Sea** – outline application for provision of Public House together with associated beer garden and car parking.
Mr and Mrs Wilson – **4 Windmill Close, Llantwit Major** – construct pitched roof over existing flat roof to former garage. Extension and alteration to outbuilding to provide annex to the main house.
Mr Andrew Lamb – **89 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys** – replacement of existing conservatory with extended ground floor extension and conversion of existing integral garage to study.
Mr Jeffrey Saxton – **Llanvithyn Farm, Llancarfan** – lawful development certificate for residential dwelling not subject to agricultural occupancy condition or occupation of dwelling in breach of condition.
Wig Fach Property Co Ltd – **Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park, Hazelwood, Ogmore by Sea** – outline application for re-development of caravan site for residential development, with assocciated open space.
Wig Fach Property Co Ltd – **Beth Rapha, Ogmore by Sea Caravan Park, Hazelwood, Ogmore By Sea** – outline application for re-development for two dwellings.
Mr Thomas – **50 Victoria Road, Penarth** – conservatory extension to the rear elevation.
Mr Alan Jauncey – **7 Ewenny Road, Wick** – increase in height of dwelling, front and rear dormer extensions, single storey rear extension.
Mr Philip Hall – **78 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – material change to existing conservatory, side elevation.
Mr Phillip Morgan – **9 Picton Court, Llantwit Major** – single storey front extension.
Mr Martyn Edwards – **Spring Meadows, Llandow, Cowbridge** – retention of extension to existing barn.
Mr Anthony Evans – **Vicarage Lawns, St Brides Major** – conversion of garage to provide accommodation for parents.
Miss Helen Jones – **15 Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major** – two storey extension.
Mr and Mrs Coley – **91 Broadway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – construct new bedroom projections to front and new garden room extension to rear, new single detached garage and boundary wall and gate to front.
Mr and Mrs NJC Griffith – **Ty Newydd, St Brides Super Ely** – construction of carport including associated external works.
Mr F Coughlan – **23 The White House, The Knap, Barry** – amendment to application 2009/00554/FUL to alter roof from and provide Velux window to study.
Mr Michael Davies – **land at rear of Silver Birch, Ynys Dawel and St Tudy, Leckwith Road, Llandough** – provision of private sewer works (retrospective).
Mr Keith Walker – **6 Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major** – single storey extension to side of property to provide disabled accommodation.
Mr Lesley J Berger – **The Lodge, Highfield Close, Park Road, Barry** – two storey extension to dwelling.
Mr Shah Rahman – **57 Winston Road Barry** – illuminated perspex box sign.
Openreach – **side of Barclays Bank, Bradenham Place, Penarth** – installation of new green coloured cabinet.
Mr R and Dr E Care – **Church House, Fort Road, Lavernock Point, near Penarth** – single storey rear extension.
Mr Kenneth George Broad – **Broadacres, Cog Road, Sully** – erection of two detached dwellings (outline).
Mr D Shale – **104 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – replace existing roof rear extension with new, and internal alterations.
Broadlands Property Investments Ltd – **Mill Barns, Mill Road, Boverton** – conversion of barn to three bedroom dwelling.
Mr and Mrs Williams – **Caradoc Cottage, Llancarfan** – demolition of existing sub-standard cottage and replacement with new dwelling and garage.
Mr and Mrs R Burt – **13 Plassey Square, Penarth** – ground floor extension on rear elevation of existing property.
Mr and Mrs O'Hagan – **Beech House, St Nicholas** – installation of timber conservatory to rear elevation.
Mr T Vaughan – **Pant Wilkin Stables, Llanquian Road, Aberthin** – provision of hardstanding parking area for vehicles and access track.
Ms J Burgess and Miss K Kisey – **Hayes House, Hayes Road, Sully** – retrospective application for cat housing building and two stores with change of use to mix of residential and emergency cat shelter.
Evan Williams – **Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan** – proposed staff accommodation (with rear extension).
Evan Williams – **Aberogwrn Farm, Llancarfan** – proposed second hay/storage feed barn.
Mrs Kirsty Bratchley – **1 Sandy Lane, Ystradowen** – single storey extension to rear, first floor extension to side.
Mr Matthew Donnelly – **land at the junction of Pill Street and Little Dock Street, Cogan Pill, Penarth** – proposed two two-storey residential dwellings.
Mr James Mangles – **Copperfields, St Mary Church** – proposed double storey side extension and single storey front extension.
Mr Ross Maclean – **Aberthin Cottage, Aberthin** – retention of summerhouse to replace outbuilding.
Mr James Davies – **land at Prisk Farm, Prisk** – agricultural access track.
Mr John Falcon – **18 Caradoc Avenue, Barry** – proposed demolition of existing rear single storey structure and construction of rear single storey extension with garage.
Mr Gavin Birt – **The Chestnuts, Llysworney** – amendments to application 2009/00011/FUL to provide a kitchen extension with en-suite bedroom at first floor level and a utility extension.
Cardiff Airport – **Cardiff Airport, Rhoose** – landside extension to Cardiff Airport terminal building including re-configuration of passenger drop-off area and associated works.
Mr Edward Saunders – **Greenmeadows, St Nicholas** – rear single storey extension.
Mr Robert Stanger – **Westridge, Porthkerry Park, Barry** – conservatory.
Mr Jeff Patreane – **17 Railway Terrace, Dinas Powys** – first floor extension to rear, detached garage off rear lane.

Barry to take a big role in Sport Relief

LOCAL residents are being urged to support a special Barry Island-based challenge for Sport Relief 2010.

Part of a three-day Sport Relief weekend of energy, entertainment and events, the Sainsbury's Barry Island Mile will be held on Sunday, March 21, and will start from opposite the Dolphin Bar at 11am. Runners can enter at *www.sportrelief.com*

The Vale Council events officer Sarah Jones said: "Everyone is invited to take part – from teeny-tots with their mums and dads to super sprinters up against the clock. There's something for everyone on the big day, and you can do one, three or six miles."

Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are expected to rise to the challenge at the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile – and have a great time too.

Money raised through sponsorship will help poor and vulnerable people both in the UK and across the world's poorest countries.

Since its launch in 2002, more than 1.25 million people have taken part in Sport Relief, helping to raise over £75 million. Sainsbury's has supported Comic Relief since 1999, and has raised more than £43 million to date.

For further information on the Barry Island event, contact 01446 704737.

Porthcawl under-11s seal Bryncoch victory with four-try burst

PORTHCAWL under-11s	28
BRYNCOCH under-11s	7

AFTER a series of poor performances, Porthcawl under-11s travelled to Bryncoch determined to regain their early season form.

With a punishing pre-match warm up, and final words of wisdom from their coaches ringing in their years, the Porthcawl players started the match in impressive fashion.

Straight from the kick-off they were on the attack.

A darting run by centre Brad Griffiths, and quick ruck ball from the breakdown allowed scrum-half Tom Cogbill to feed Will Lampard, who was hauled down inches short of the line.

This move set a pattern of play that was to last throughout the first half.

Porthcawl's well-drilled pack were now gaining the upper hand over their larger but less mobile opponents. This allowed their backs to attack from all areas of the pitch.

From one such attack, outside-half Jack Richards left the Brynoch defence grasping at thin air as he weaved his way through to score from well inside his own half.

Not to be outdone, the Porthcawl forwards now got in on the act with Ben Jones, Will Lampard and Rhys Cobley breaking the gain line at will to release Leon Evans and Joe Williams to score well-deserved tries.

With the Porthcawl team now in total ascendancy, a further score before half-time was inevitable.

This time a strike against the head allowed Jack Richards to dance over from halfway, rounding off a superb first half performance.

The second half was a complete contrast to the first. With the pitch deteriorating, Bryncoch's heavyweight approach saw them claw their way back into contention.

An early try by Bryncoch had the Porthcawl supporters fearing the worst.

They need not have worried.

The entire Porthcawl team turned in a fantastic second half defensive display with James Thomas and Ben Jones continually to the fore.

In fact, as the half ended, only superb defence by Bryncoch denied Porthcawl further tries.

Firstly Ioan Bluck and then Tom Cogbill were held up inches short of the line.

Joe Williams again converted all four tries and Will Lampard was named man-of-the-match. **AC**

White Dove Skoda offers drivers a free winter health check

SUB-ZERO temperatures can seriously damage cars and, after a period of treacherous driving conditions, many vehicles will be feeling the strain.

When temperatures drop, a car's battery can begin to fail, wiper blades can rip as they stick to the windscreen and tyre wear can accelerate after skidding on icy tarmac. To help its customers remain safe on the roads this winter, White Dove Skoda is offering free car health checks and advice.

Alison Williams, service manager at White Dove Skoda, explains: "At White Dove Skoda, we are renowned for great customer service and are happy to offer our knowledge and expertise to any Skoda driver who is concerned about the condition of their car.

"We will undertake all the checks within around 20 minutes and it could help prevent drivers being stuck on the side of the road for hours this winter, or worse, involved in an accident."

The free health check includes the inspection of the battery, coolant levels, windscreen wipers and tyres.

For further information or to arrange a free car heath check, Skoda customers should contact White Dove Skoda on 02920 642 999, www.whitedovegroup.co.uk Hadfield Road, Cardiff CF11 8WD

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Green. 4 previous owners, 113,000 miles, MoT 22/03/10, lovely car with high motorway miles. Scratch to passenger door. new tyres 2,000 miles ago.
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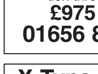
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FordNew Ka Studio
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£6,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£101.91
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£5,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£476.84
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£6,718.84
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3,876.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1000 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Fiesta Zetec
1.25 16v Duratec (82PS)

On The Road Price**	£10,195.00
24 Monthly Payments	£207.47
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£9,745.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£699.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£9,454.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,515.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,550 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordFocus Zetec
1.6 16v Petrol (100PS) Euro Stage IV

On The Road Price**	£12,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£250.81
Deposit Allowance***	£1,500.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,795.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£804.44
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£11,599.44
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,580.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £3,950.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Fiesta Edge
1.25 Petrol (60PS)

On The Road Price**	£8,395.00
24 Monthly Payments	£148.10
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£7,945.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£631.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£8,846.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,027.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £2,200.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordNew Ka Style +
1.2 8v Duratec (69PS)

On The Road Price**	£7,295.00
24 Monthly Payments	£130.17
Deposit Allowance***	£450.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£450.00
Amount of Credit	£6,845.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£545.08
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£7,400.08
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£4,266.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £1.200.00 customer saving

Typical **4.9% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

***Subject to finance. Deposit Allowance paid by Ford Motor Company when financed on typical 4.9% APR through Ford Credit.

FordMondeo Zetec 5 door
2.0 Diesel TDCi 6sp

On The Road Price**	£15,995.00
24 Monthly Payments	£371.23
Deposit Allowance***	£1,000.00
Customer Deposit	£nil
Total Deposit	£1,000.00
Amount of Credit	£14,995.00
Total Charge for Credit (inc. £10 Purchase fee*)	£1,089.52
Total Amount Payable by the Customer	£16,094.52
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£7,175.00
Mileage per Annum	12000
Excess Mileage Charge	6p per mile

**includes £2,000 Ford/Government Scrappage Allowance and £4,250.00 customer saving

Typical **4.8% APR**
Freepost Ford Credit

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GOODYEAR

STANDARD TYRES FROM £27.40

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
155/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£41.26	£78	£150	155/70R13 Avon CR322	£34.50	£65	£125	155/70R13 Federal	£27.40	£50	£95
165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£46.34	£87	£165	165/70R13 Avon CR322	£36.62	£70	£135	165/70R13 Federal	£28.81	£52	£99
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£59.00	£112	£210	175/70R14 Avon CR322	£46.67	£90	£170	175/70R14 Federal	£32.75	£60	£115
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£48.00	£89	£170	175/65R14 Avon CR322	£39.92	£75	£140	175/65R14 Maxxis	£33.79	£62	£120

PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £35.20

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
185/60R14 Bridgestone ER300	£53.14	£99	£190	185/60R14 Avon ZV3	£46.66	£90	£170	185/60R14 Federal	£35.20	£65	£125
185/60R14 Bridgestone B250	£65.49	£120	£230	185/60R14 Avon ZV3	£50.31	£95	£185	185/60R14 Maxxis	£35.38	£65	£125
185/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£69.93	£132	£255	185/60R15 Avon ZV3	£53.86	£102	£199	185/60R15 Maxxis	£38.88	£70	£135
195/60R15 Bridgestone B250	£57.03	£108	£205	195/60R15 Avon ZV3	£50.43	£95	£185	195/60R15 Federal	£41.90	£75	£140

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £36.42

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50R15 Bridgestone ER300	£51.34	£98	£189	195/50R15 Avon ZV3	£46.67	£85	£160	195/50R15 Nexen	£36.42	£67	£130
195/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£72.23	£135	£260	195/60R15 Avon ZV5	£59.73	£115	£220	195/60R15 Federal	£42.15	£79	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£60.13	£110	£210	195/65R15 Avon ZV5	£52.84	£99	£190	195/65R15 Federal	£43.40	£80	£150
205/55R16 Bridgestone ER300	£67.74	£125	£240	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£62.60	£120	£230	205/55R16 Federal	£52.33	£99	£190

ULTRA HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £49.22

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
205/50R16 Bridgestone ER300	£89.73	£170	£330	205/50R16 Avon ZV5	£73.55	£140	£270	205/50R16 Federal	£50.02	£95	£180
205/55R16 Bridgestone ER300	£72.64	£135	£260	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£65.43	£120	£230	205/55R16 Federal	£49.32	£92	£175
225/45R17 Bridgestone RE010	£92.66	£175	£340	225/45R17 XL Avon ZV5	£86.92	£165	£320	225/45R17 XL Federal	£51.19	£95	£180
225/40R18 XL Bridgestone RE050	£116.98	£220	£420	225/40R18 XL Avon ZV5	£101.60	£195	£375	225/40R18 Federal	£61.00	£115	£220

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SPORTS

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07 **07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 29,405 miles **£8,495**

06 **06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDi 2.0 (140) 5-dr** in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles **£9,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles **£7,495**

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05 **05 MINI 1.6 Cooper S (Chilli Pack).** Black, black leather interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles **£11,995**

05 **55 BMW X3 2.0D Sport 5-dr Station Wagon.** In blue water silver with black leather interior, sat nav, multi CD, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors, only 61,930 miles **£14,995**

05 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate.** In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£7,995**

04 **54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTi 3-dr Hatchback.** In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles **£6,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles **£6,995**

03 **53 MGTF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles **£4,495**

02 **52 VOLKSWAGEN Golf TDi (130) 5-Dr Hatchback.** In Reflex silver with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD changer, only 68,990 miles **£5,995**

02 **02 HONDA Accord 2.3i VTEC Type V (150)** in Atlantic blue with tan leather interior, electric drivers seat, sunroof, alloy wheels, climate control, rear parking sensors, only 48,000 miles **£4,495**

01 **Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8T Quattro (225)** in met silver with full granite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles **£8,495**

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FAMILY

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04 **04 MAZDA 3 1.6TS 5-dr Hatchback** in titanium grey with blue sport cloth interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, steering wheel mounted audio controls, only 54,805 miles **£5,295**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£6,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCi 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles **£5,995**

02 **52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback.** Grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles **£3,995**

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01 **Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon.** In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles **£4,295**

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05 **55 FORD KA Luxury 1.3 3-dr Hatchback.** In Tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,980 miles **£5,495**

04 **54 FORD Ka 1.3 3-door Hatchback.** In deep navy blue with indigo cascade cloth interior, CD, ABS, immobiliser, power steering, only 31,595 miles **£2,995**

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02 **52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback** in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 48,060 miles **£3,995**

02 **02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-dr.** In super red with grey interior, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 30,288 miles **£2,495**

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05 **55 BMW X3 2.0D Sport 5-dr Station Wagon.** In blue water silver with black leather interior, sat nav, multi CD, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors, only 61,930 miles..... **£14,995**

05 **05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDi Automatic 5-Door Station Wagon.** In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles.... **£15,995**

07 **07 VW Beetle 1.6 Luna 2-dr Cabriolet.** In harvest moon beige with dark interior, heated seats, CD, front fogs, colour coded bumpers, only 11,335 miles **£12,995**

05 **54 MG ZT-T 1.8T 160 5-dr Estate.** In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles..... **£5,995**

02 **52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDi SE.** In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles..... **£7,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles..... **£6,995**

02 **02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-dr.** In super red with grey interior, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 30,288 miles..... **£2,495**

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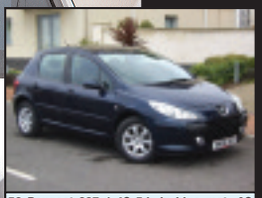

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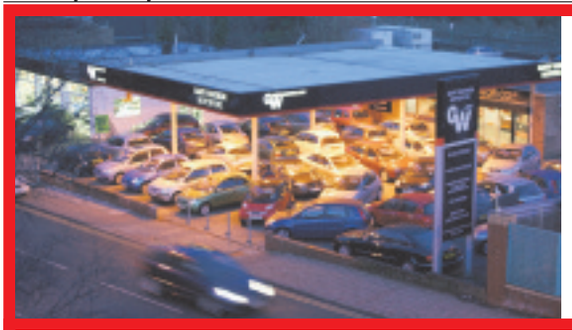

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GEM sport

COWBRIDGE RUGBY ROUND-UP

Win one, lose one, as 1st XV stutter

ON January 16, Cowbridge 1st XV travelled to Canton and on a remarkably good pitch, considering the bad weather, came away with a valuable 5-11 win.

The game was never a classic and the points came from a try from Lawrence Brown and two penalties by Huw Rees.

Last Saturday, the visitors to the Athletic Field were Cefn Coed RFC. Although they are in a lowly position in the league, their last two results, a win and a draw against Deri, proved they were a better team than their position suggested and so it proved, as they ran out winners 10-20.

In sunny and reasonably good conditions, on the 10-minute mark Cefn capitalised on a dropped ball in a lineout. Their scrum-half made yards and then, moving the ball quickly to the right, their full-back crossed for an unconverted try.

Fifteen minutes later, following a scrum, Cowbridge won the ball but it came back on the Cefn side and again through good passing, the left wing was in for a converted try.

Cowbridge were impressive in the scrum where Jon Phillips had a strong game, and on the 30-minute mark, a scrum close to Cefn's line was taken forward and No 8 and captain Steve Birchenough went over, only for the ref to rule he was held up.

The scrum was reset, this time there was no mistake and Birchenough got the reward for the good play of the pack with scrum-half Tom James adding the conversion.

Half time score was 7-12.

In the second half, David Popham came into the front row for Jon Phillips, and not long after the re-start, Cowbridge secured a penalty that James converted into points.

On the 15-minute mark, a penalty gave Cefn another three points.

Changes took Lawrence Brown into the pack at flanker and Rob Tripp came on at centre. Just past the halfway point, Cefn's replacement scrum-half, who looked lively from the time he came on, took advantage of a ball not being gathered as it came out of a scrum on the Cowbridge side and set off on a 50-metre run to the line.

Cowbridge were unsucessful with a couple of penalty kicks and the game ended at 10-20.

There was little doubt that Cefn were the better side overall. Although the Cowbridge pack had the upper hand, it was the Cefn backs who looked dangerous. They ran hard and passed well. Mistakes were Cowbridge's undoing because in some form or another, all Cefn's points came from errors.

The 2nd XV entertained Clwb Rygbi and again Clwb Rygbi showed what a strong side they are. Although Cowbridge battled to the end, the visitors' backs were clinical. Overall, they ran in more tries than we care to mention here, but all the players involved had a good run out and blew the Christmas and New Year cobwebs away.

This Saturday, Cowbridge 1st XV take on Barry away. This will be a stern test, with Barry near the top of the league but it's 15 against 15 and if the mistakes are cut out and everyone gives all they've got, then it should be a good battle.

The Seconds are also in action, with the fixture to be resolved in the week. With a bit of fun to be had after the game, these should be enjoyable last games before the Six Nations. So come on down and get involved!

The club will be open for the England v Wales international at 5pm on Saturday, February 6. England look a strong outfit for this campaign with players back from injury. How strong we should know about 7pm that night. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, our friends ASDE from Paris are due over in Wales to watch the French game and then to take on a Cowbridge 15 on Saturday, February 27. So get your boots ready and brush up on some French, even if it's just 'let me go'! Everyone is invited to come down for some fun.

RV/RK

The sad end of Welsh 'wonder horse' which took part in controversial race

IN almost 50 years of covering the Welsh point-to-point scene, I have seen many controversial races, but none more so than the three-horse men's open race at the Gelligaer Farmers meeting back in May 1993 – my report of the race even ended up on the front page of the now sadly defunct *The Sporting Life*, and for a point-to-point to make the front page of that esteemed publication was very rare indeed!

Welsh riders Robert Rowsell, riding *Alf Mahaba*, and Tim Jones aboard *Zephyr Nights*, were greeted with boos and catcalls after finishing second and third respectively in a sensational race that is still argued about today.

But the rider of the winner, Somerset's Ron Treloggen, who rode Welsh wonder horse *Brunico*, received loud cheers.

When the starter sent the three horses on their way, Rowsell and Jones made no attempt to make a race of it, knowing that the quirky *Brunico* had to be held up for a late run.

The grey *Brunico*, finding himself in front, at first refused to jump the second fence, but when he did and caught up with the other two horses, they slowed down again.

Brunico led at the seventh fence, only to refuse again, as did the other two horses and when all three managed to negotiate the obstacle, they continued at a pace that could only be described as a hack canter or slow bicycle race!

Brunico eventually came to the last fence ahead of *Alf Mahaba* and although strongly challenged, Treloggen teasingly did just enough to score by a length, clocking nine minutes and 36 seconds – a very, very slow time for a three-mile point-to-point.

On entering the winner's enclosure, Treloggen and *Brunico* were given a tremendous welcome. However, all three riders found themselves up before the stewards and their conduct was reported to the Jockey Club but they, in their wisdom, deemed that: "The running and riding of *Alf Mahaba* and *Zephyr Knights* did not warrant the holding of an inquiry either under the regulation relating to horses running on their merits, or the rule relating to the proper conduct and good reputation of racing."

All three riders received letters informing them that the Stewards of the Jockey Club, having heard the evidence and viewed a video of the race, were of the opinion that there was insufficient evidence under the regulations for the matter to be referred to the disciplinary committee.

Brunico, a winner of The Daily Telegraph Trophy in 1992 when chalking-up 12 consecutive races, won a further 11 races in 1993 and was the first horse in 20 years to win the classic Dudley Cup at the Worcestershire meeting two years in succession.

He ended his days in a sad and mysterious way, being found by his trainer Peter Bowen in a field with severe injuries to his head and forelegs and had to be put down.

BRIAN LEE

School hockey team is hit by injuries

THE year-9 hockey team played against Bro Morgannwg.

Cowbridge were missing Liz Whitehouse due to county netball, and Emma Dando due to illness. Both are defenders so the team was adjusted, but the change of positions disrupted the team and allowed Bro Morgannwg to dominate the game.

Mairi Boxall, Anna Wynne and player of the match Angharad Davies all played well in defence; but the strong Bro Morgannwg team scored three goals.

The best opportunity for Cowbridge to score came from Hannah Taylor who had a shot which unfortunately just went wide.

The final result was 3-0 to Bro Morgannwg.

Player of the match: Angharad Davies.

Rugby used to be so simple!

I USUALLY look forward in anticipation to the Six Nations, but this year I fear that we will not be entertained as much as in previous years.

A typical game now seems to be one of aerial ping-pong interspersed with endless penalties given by over-officious referees.

In many cases, the winner is decided by the referee awarding a dubious penalty in the last few minutes.

It used to be true that to score points a team needed to be in possession of the ball. No longer! A team can win on penalties alone, without recourse to scoring a try. Maybe the rules could be tweaked to encourage real flowing rugby.

I suggest that penalties should only score one point and kicks at the post should only be allowed inside the 22-metre area. To speed up the game and get away from endless 'phases', rucks should be limited to say three before the game must be opened out.

As for referees, why not adopt a universal advantage rule, instead of leaving the interpretation to individual referees?

Rugby used to be a simple game!

Ceri Harris,
Llantrisant

Ladies ready to get on pitch

THE combination of the Christmas break and the flurries of snow have meant that Cowbridge Ladies have barely seen a rugby ball in 2010 not to mention being able to play!

However, with brighter times ahead the team hope to be back on the field for business. This Sunday, the ladies have the first round of the cup, away against Tylorstown, 2.30pm kick-off.

The following week, (February 7), the team will travel west to take on Whitland.

Also in the ladies calendar is the fast-approaching Six Nations Championships, and the Wales Women will be playing at the Brewery Field, Bridgend this year for their home fixtures.

As always, the ladies continue to train hard on Wednesday evenings. New players interested in joining are welcome to come along, 6.30pm start.

To find out more, visit www.cowbridgeladiesrfc.btik.com.

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